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Ukraine

Information on the war in Ukraine

Information from the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees

Here you can find out what is important at the moment - for example, what the current [situation](#) is. You can also find rules here if you want to enter Germany or if you need a visa. We have already written down some important questions and answers for you:

I am in Germany without a visa - what can I do now?

If you come from Ukraine, you do not need a visa to come to Germany until **4 December 2025**. From the day you enter the country, you can stay here for up to 90 days without a special permit. You can even stay in Germany without a special residence permit until **4 March 2026**.

During the 90-day visa exemption period, you can consider whether you would like to stay in Germany for longer. There are various options for this:

1. You can apply for a residence permit under Section 24 of the Residence Act within 90 days of your first entry into Germany. This provision specifically regulates the situation for war refugees from Ukraine on the basis of the EU decision. You can find out who is eligible for a residence permit under Section 24 of the Residence Act [here](#). You can find answers to the procedure [here](#).
2. You can apply for a residence permit for another purpose within 90 days of your first arrival in Germany. For example, to study or for gainful employment. This may be more favourable for you. You can seek advice on this from the authorities if you have an appointment, or you can find out more in advance on the website: <https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/>.
3. Alternatively, you can apply for asylum. However, this option is not recommended due to the less favourable legal consequences - such as the restriction on taking up employment and the obligation to live in an initial reception centre.

Do you have a valid residence permit in accordance with Section 24 of the Residence Act as of 1 February 2025?

Your residence permit will be automatically extended and will then be valid until 4 March 2026. You do NOT need to visit the immigration office for this. You can find more information on [Germany4Ukraine](#).

What happens when you arrive in Germany?

When you come to Germany, there are a few important steps that you need to take one after the other. This is how it works:

- First, you register - this is called registration.
- If you need help from the state (for example money or food), you will be told where you can live.
- Then you register your new address, i.e. where exactly you now live.

- Finally, you apply for a permit so that you can stay in Germany for longer.

You can find more information on this [here](#).

Can I work in Germany with a residence permit for temporary protection?

Yes, you can. However, before you can work, the immigration authority must authorise it. The immigration authority will often already enter in your residence permit that you are allowed to work - even if you do not yet have a job. This is good, because then you no longer need an extra permit from another authority.

The immigration authorities will issue so-called fictitious certificates as soon as you submit your application. These bridge the right of residence until the actual residence title can be issued and granted. The foreigners authority will also enter "Gainful employment permitted" in the fictitious certificate. This fictitious certificate therefore authorises you to work in Germany either as a self-employed person or as an employee. Special professional access requirements (such as a licence to practise medicine or a permit for a trade requiring a licence) naturally apply to persons with temporary protection in the same way as to all others. However, the procedures for recognising foreign professional qualifications are also open to those affected, just like everyone else.

Persons with a residence permit for temporary protection in Germany can also receive counselling and placement services from the employment agencies in accordance with SGB III.

Should people from Ukraine apply for asylum?

No, that is not necessary. The necessary protection is granted in a different, faster procedure. It is therefore recommended that you do not apply for asylum. However, if you want to apply for asylum later, you can still do so.

As a result of the decision to admit war refugees in accordance with Article 5 (1) of Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection, a residence permit in accordance with Section 24 of the Residence Act (AufenthG - Residence Permit for Temporary Protection) will be granted to the group of persons covered by the decision upon application.

Registration upon entry does not constitute an application for asylum. An application for asylum must be submitted to the responsible branch office of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees in order for an asylum procedure to be carried out.

For these reasons, it is not necessary to file an asylum application to secure a right of residence or to claim social benefits.

Information portal of the German government

The Federal Ministry of the Interior and Homeland offers a digital information portal in German, English, Russian and Ukrainian. Here you will find all official information about residence and living in Germany.

 [Germany4Ukraine](#)

Embassy of Ukraine in Berlin

☎ [+493028887128](tel:+493028887128)

📍 [Albrechtstraße 26, 10117 Berlin](#)

Help for Ukrainians

The community of Artland is currently bundling municipal and civic forces in Artland. It has set up a coordination office to provide contacts and to address the various offers and assistance to the right places. A central telephone number has been set up to clarify questions, collect information, accept offers of help and bundle actions.

Your direct contact at the community of Artland on the subject of "Help for Ukraine":

☎ [05431/182-300](tel:05431/182-300)

@ ukraine@artland.de

Report support possibilities

Do you want to help/support and, for example, offer accommodation or help with translations? Please use the [contact form to](#) report your type of support opportunity and inform the community of Artland, e.g. by [e-mail](#).

Application/registration at the Registration Office (Meldebehörde)

Ukrainians need the following form to register at the municipal administration/Citizens' Advice Bureau: [Confirmation of accommodation certificate](#) The completed form and proof of identity (e.g. passport or ID card) of the person to be registered must be brought to the appointment/registration! Please make an appointment in advance to register via the [online appointment form](#) or by phone at ☎ [05431/182-0](tel:05431/182-0)!

Further helpful information is available at the following link:

<https://www.niedersachsen.de/startseite/themen/kr...>

Application for social assistance/asylum

To apply for social benefits/benefits under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act (Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz), the following documents must be available for application at the Social Welfare Office:

- [Application for benefits under the AsylbLG](#)
- [Privacy policy](#)
- [Rent certificate](#)
- [In summary: Information on applying for benefits under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act \(Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz\)](#)

The applications are to be completed before the personal visit to the Social Welfare Office, as far as it is possible. If you have any questions or are unclear about how to apply or fill out the forms, the [office for administrative affairs](#) in the multi-generation house (MGH) will be happy to help you (☎ [05431/9030143](tel:05431/9030143)).

Welcome

Welcome to the community of Artland

Interesting facts about the community of Artland

Situated about 50 km north of Osnabrück, the community of Artland consists of the member municipalities of Badbergen, Menslage and Nortrup and the town of Quakenbrück.

The Burgmann- und Hansestadt Quakenbrück offers all citizens good services in the areas of education, culture and shopping.


In addition to everyday things, the community of Artland offers excellent conditions for excursions by bike. You can follow the different tours easily and safely with the help of the signposting.

Information about the various tourist offers, such as city tours, bicycle tours and gastronomy, can be obtained from our [tourist information office](#).

Member municipalities of the community of Artland

The community of Artland includes the following member municipalities. You will find the contact details of the municipal administrations here.

City of Quakenbrück

 [Markt 1, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

 [05431/1820](#)

[05431/182118](#)

[@info@artland.de](mailto:info@artland.de)

 [City of Quakenbrück](#)

Community of Badbergen

 [Am Markt 3, 49635 Badbergen](#)


 [05433/328](#)

[@wilms@artland.de](mailto:wilms@artland.de)

 [Community of Badbergen](#)

Community of Menslage


 [Hauptstraße 14, 49637 Menslage](#)


 [05437/674](#)

[@bluhm@artland.de](mailto:bluhm@artland.de)

 [Community of Menslage](#)

Community of Nortrup

 [Postweg 1, 49638 Nortrup](#)

 [05436/272](#)

[05436/674](tel:05436674)


@nortrup@artland.de


 [Community of Nortrup](#)

Community life in Germany

The Basic Law (Grundgesetz)

In every country, there are rules that everyone has to follow. The most important law in Germany is the Basic Law. It is a collection of 146 articles. Each article stands for a law, meaning a rule. These rules determine how we live together here in Germany. The basic rights protect the freedom of each individual. They are stipulated in Articles 1 to 19 of the Basic Law (Catalogue of Fundamental Rights).

 Here you will find the Basic Law in 11 languages:* [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Italian](#), [Persian](#), [Polish](#), [Russian](#), [Serbian](#), [Spanish](#), [Turkish](#) and of course in [German](#).

 How the German constitutional state functions is illustrated in this film illustrated: [German](#), [Dari](#), [Arabic](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Pashto](#), [Urdu](#).

Universal Declaration of Human Rights


Human rights are important rights that apply to everyone all over the world. Human rights are rights that every person has on the basis of their humanity. They protect the dignity of every human being and are equally due to all human beings without any distinction, for example according to "(...) race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status." (Article 2 of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10.12.1948)

There are 30 rights. The most important are:

- All people are of equal value.
- Everyone is allowed to have their own opinion.
- All people have the right to live in peace and safety.

Children's rights

Children need extra protection, which is why they also have special rights. The individual children's rights are stipulated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1989 and subsequently ratified by 196 countries. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child includes 54 articles.

 The 10 important children's rights are clearly explained here: [German/Arabic](#) and [German/Persian](#).

Equality

All people are equal before the law and no one may be discriminated against because of their gender (Art.3 GG).

The work of the equal opportunities commissioners pursues the goal of actual gender equality in the professional, social and family spheres of life. Therefore, they participate in all projects, decisions, programmes and measures in the community of Artland that have an impact on equal rights and on the recognition of the equal position of the sexes in society (according to §9 para. 2 NKomVG).

The following focal points are set:

- Addressing existing inequalities within and outside the administration
- Development of concepts to improve equal opportunities and initiation of corresponding projects
- Information and actions on gender equality issues
- Participation in existing networks and expert bodies at the municipal, district and state level
- Offer confidential counselling for all citizens of the community of Artland on topics relevant to gender equality
- Improving structures to reconcile family work and gainful employment

If you have any questions, require further information, have suggestions or need help, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Brockhaus.

Ms Brockhaus

📍 [Rathaus Markt 1, room 11 ground floor Markt 1, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)
☎ [05431/182401](tel:05431/182401)
✉ @brockhaus@artland.de

About Integreat

Integreat is a guide intended to help you with everyday life in Germany. Here you will find important addresses, contact persons, as well as tips and tricks to help you better orient yourself.

This guide has several chapters. Each section deals with a different subject. For example, you will find information on doctors, schools, German courses or other institutions. There is also a chapter with ideas on what you can do in your spare time. The information and leisure facilities often change and your community will update them regularly. Therefore, it is a good idea to check your mobile app and keep up to date about current campaigns and events. You can trust that the information in Integreat is reliable.

You can also use this app offline if you do not have Internet access. The app will update automatically when you are back online again.

We hope this app makes your life in Germany a little bit easier.

Integreat in sign language (video)



[Sign language \(video\)](#)

Advice and Assistance

Office for administrative affairs

The office for administrative affairs offers you support in reading, understanding and filling out official letters and applications.

You can find out where you can apply for benefits and what documents you need for this, among other things, at the office for administrative affairs.

Our staff will be happy to put you in touch with the relevant authorities.

The offers are available to you free of charge.

📍 [EJF-Mehrgenerationenhaus Friedrichstraße 37 a 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

☎ [05431/9030143](tel:05431/9030143)

@ behoerdenangelegenheiten@ejf.de

🕒 Mon: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Tue: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Wed: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Th: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

and by appointment

Migration Counselling Centres for Adult Immigrants (27 Years and Older)

The staff of the migration advice service support immigrants in finding their way in Germany and promote the integration process - in a very practical and everyday way. The counselling service is generally aimed at adult immigrants over 27 years of age.

After a counselling interview, the person seeking advice develops a plan together with the counsellor to help him/her find his/her way in Germany. The focus is on the skills and knowledge of the person concerned.

The target groups for the migration advice service are:

- Late repatriates (Spätaussiedler), their spouses and children who stay in the Federal territory for up to three years after entry (within the meaning of §§ 4 AND 7 BVFG)
- Immigrants who have been living in Germany for a longer period of time and have a need for integration. E.g. insufficient German language skills
- EU citizens entitled to freedom of movement who have a need for integration. (e.g. insufficient knowledge of German)
- Persons who
 - have a temporary residence permit (Aufenthaltsgestattung) and expect to reside lawfully and permanently
 - who are obliged to attend an integration course

Advisory focus

- **Securing livelihoods and the enforcement of justified claims.**
(What is the target group entitled to in terms of support? Which family benefit can be applied for?)
- **Work integration**
(How can a job be found? How can the target group obtain a work permit? Is a vocational qualification recognised?)
- **Questions about finding a flat**
(What is a reasonable rent? Housing agency structures)
- **Education**
(Is a graduation certificate recognised? The school system in Germany?)
- **Language acquisition**
(Where can the target group acquire German language skills? Do you have to pay for the course yourself?)
- **Questions on health, marriage, family and education**
(Health insurance systems, choice of doctor... Who provides support during pregnancy? Who counsels on marriage problems?)

👤 There is a separate counselling service for adolescents and young adults between the ages of 12 and 27: [Youth Migration Services \(Jugendmigrationsdienst\)](#).

Contact Nordkreis

Caritasverband für die Diözese Osnabrück e.V.
Migration advice service
Tatsiana Wolf-Aliashkevich



[Markt 4, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

☎ [05439/942360](tel:05439942360)

☎ [01755199367](tel:01755199367)

@ twolf@caritas-os.de

 [Caritas migration advice service](#)


Jugendmigrationsdienst (Youth Migration Service)


Youth Migration Services (Jugendmigrationsdienst; JMD) support young immigrants from 12 to 27 years old. It helps them settle into life in Germany as quickly as possible and provides support for the following issues:


- Questions about general orientation
- School, education, career
- Personal questions
- Financial and legal matters

Caritasverband für die Diözese Osnabrück e.V.
Youth Migration Service (Jugendmigrationsdienst)

Tatsiana Wolf-Aliashkevich

 [Markt 4, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

 [05439/942360](#)

 [01755199367](#)

 [@twolf@caritas-os.de](mailto:twolf@caritas-os.de)

 [Caritas migration advice service](#)


Repatriation advice in the District of Osnabrück

You want to return to your home country before the BAMF has decided on your asylum application? Are you uncertain how to get your passport back or do you need financial help for the journey? The Repatriation Advice Centre advises you on how voluntary departure to your home country can work. The advice is impartial. This means that you decide after the consultation itself whether you would like to leave voluntarily or not.

The District of Osnabrück offers repatriation advice. The counselling service is available to all persons living in the District of Osnabrück who are interested in voluntary return to their home country.


Questions and information can be obtained from the integration and foreigners department of the District of Osnabrück by Ms Kessler and Ms Brandebusemeyer.


Ms Kessler

 [0541/5012582](#)

 [@kessler@lks.de](mailto:kessler@lks.de)

Ms Brandebusemeyer

 [0541/5012177](#)

 [@brandebusemeyerpa@lks.de](mailto:brandebusemeyerpa@lks.de)

 [Repatriation advice in the District of Osnabrück](#)

Migrationszentrum

The Migration Centre is open to all immigrants in the District of Osnabrück. This includes both new immigrants from abroad and their families, as well as people with a migration background who have been living in the Osnabrück region for some time. Residence status does not play a role. The aim of the work of the Migration Centre is the long-term and sustainable integration of all immigrant people in education, training, language and work.

Migration Centre

MaßArbeit (Job Centre) kAöR

📍 [Am Schölerberg 1, 49082 Osnabrück](#)

☎ [0541/50140000](tel:0541/50140000)

@ migrationszentrum@landreis-onsabruueck.de

🌐 [Website](#)

Important offices

Social Integration Unit

Integration has a long history throughout the Artland cultural region and is on the agenda now more than ever. The residents of the community, who come from 89 different countries, make Artland a multicultural and colourful municipality.

With funding from various areas, we have been working since 2003 to advance integration in the community of Artland. For example, Quakenbrück was an ExWost model municipality in the past, has had a Social City Neighbourhood since 2004 and participates in the development programme "Jugend Stärken im Quartier", which is funded by the EU and the federal government. Furthermore, many full-time and voluntary actors work in various committees to shape life together in the community and to solve problems together.

Our new citizens are provided with multilingual [flyers for initial orientation](#) with information on everything they need to know about life in Germany.

Integration work in the community of Artland is coordinated by the Social Integration Office:

Jana Kellers

📍 [Markt 2, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

Room 131

☎ [05431/182130](tel:05431/182130)

@ kellers@artland.de

Franziska Pohlrs

📍 [Markt 2, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

Room 131

☎ [05431/182131](tel:05431/182131)

@ pohlrs@artland.de

Business development

The primary goal of business development is to strengthen the economy and the attractiveness of the community of Artland. In doing so, it supports local businesses, new settlements and start-ups with a wide range of individually tailored services. The field of activity here includes all economic sectors, whether large industrial companies or smaller retail, craft or service businesses.

Your service provider for the local economy

As the first point of contact for all matters concerning the local economy, the Economic Development Agency will advise you neutrally, free of charge and with commitment on the following topics, among others:

Promotion and advice

- Support for companies through basic services
- Support for operational development projects
- Business start-up support
- Operating and investment advice

Settlement and location marketing

- Location advertising and communication
- Real estate brokerage, utilisation management
- Helping to shape the local framework conditions
- Initiation, moderation and implementation of projects

Steffie Imholte

 [05431/9067580](tel:05431/9067580)
 @imholte@artland.de
 [Business development](#)

Family Service Office


In the family office of the joint municipality of Artland, parents can find advice and help in all matters relating to childcare. Childcare options for children of working parents are particularly important for many families. Three employees help to find customised solutions for child day care, day care and care in day care centres. With this office and the concept of the Lower Saxony state programme "Families with a future - educating and caring for children", we will develop the childcare options in the joint municipality more flexibly and in line with demand. The aim is to create a holistic municipal network in which children and families feel even more comfortable.

Our colleagues will be happy to help you with your concerns.

Further information can be found [here](#).

Family Service Office

 [Familienservicebüro](#)


 Opening hours

Monday to Friday 09:00 - 12:00

Thursday 14:30 - 17:30


During the holidays from Monday to Friday 09:00 - 12:00

Mrs Burmester

 [05431/182554](tel:05431182554)


@burmester@artland.de

Mrs Brockhaus

 [05431182555](tel:05431182555)


@brockhaus@artland.de

Mrs Hölker

 [05431/182559](tel:05431182559)

@hoelker@artland.de

Mrs Müller

 [05431/182552](tel:05431182552)

@muellerak@artland.de

Equal opportunities commissioner

All people are equal before the law and no one may be discriminated against because of their gender (Art.3 GG).

The work of the equal opportunities commissioners pursues the goal of actual gender equality in the professional, social and family spheres of life. Therefore, they participate in all projects, decisions, programmes and measures in the community of Artland that have an impact on equal rights and on the recognition of the equal position of the sexes in society (according to §9 para. 2 NKomVG).

The following focal points are set:

- Addressing existing inequalities within and outside the administration
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- Information and actions on gender equality issues
- Participation in existing networks and expert bodies at the municipal, district and state level
- Offer confidential counselling for all citizens of the community of Artland on topics relevant to gender equality
- Improving structures to reconcile family work and gainful employment

If you have any questions, require further information, have suggestions or need help, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Brockhaus.

Ms Brockhaus

📍 [Rathaus Markt 1](#), room 11 ground floor
Markt 1, 49610 Quakenbrück

☎ [05431/182401](tel:05431182401)

@ brockhaus@artland.de

MaßArbeit Job Centre

The municipal employment agency MaßArbeit kAöR is responsible for the integration of people receiving unemployment benefit II in the District of Osnabrück (District of Osnabrück Job Centre).

As a subsidiary of the district, MaßArbeit works to get recipients of unemployment benefit II into employment and to prevent the development and consolidation of long-term unemployment. The mediators advise and accompany the clients individually and try to open up new career perspectives for them through custom-fit offers and support opportunities. With its seven branch offices and a business centre for the self-employed, MaßArbeit focuses on decentralisation and ease of access. The field offices are also responsible for the quick and correct payment of financial benefits.

MaßArbeit has been working with jobseekers for more than 20 years and they know: Unemployment does not only affect individuals, but has repercussions on the whole family. That is why MaßArbeit also pays special attention to young people who need increased support to compensate for social disadvantages or to overcome individual impairments.

The branch office in Bersenbrück is responsible for the community of Artland.

MaßArbeit kAöR - Bersenbrück branch office

📍 [Am Bahnhof 15, 49593 Bersenbrück](#)

☎ [05439/60990](tel:0543960990)

[05439/609910](tel:05439609910)

Opening hours:

Monday to Tuesday: 8:00 - 12:00

Closed on Wednesday

Thursday: 8:00 - 12:00 and 14:00 to 18:00

Friday: 8:00 - 12:00

You can find more information [here](#).

Agentur für Arbeit (Employment Agency)

The Employment Agency (Agentur für Arbeit) is your most important point of contact regarding employment. If you are looking for an apprenticeship, need help choosing a career in Germany, require recognition of your school-leaving qualifications or similar, the Employment Agency is your point of contact.

When it comes to work, finding out which organisation is responsible for you depends on your residence status:

🐾 If your asylum procedure is still ongoing (Aufenthaltsgestattung) or if you are tolerated (Duldung), then the Employment Agency is your contact for job placement, advice on further vocational training and recognition of vocational qualifications.

🐾 You are approved? Then the [jobcenter](#) is the right contact for you on the subject of work.

Bersenbrück Employment Agency

📍 [Am Bahnhof 15, 49593 Bersenbrück](#)
 ☎ [08004555500](#) (free of charge)

Availability by telephone:

Monday - Friday, 08:00 - 18:00

Ausländerbehörde (Immigration Office)

In order to be able to live as a non-German national in Germany, you need a residence permit (Aufenthaltstitel) (visa, residence permit, EU Blue Card, or permanent residence – of which there are two slightly different forms, "Niederlassungserlaubnis" and "Erlaubnis zum Daueraufenthalt"). In order to apply for a residence permit, you need to go to the Immigration Office.

Other things you can do at the Immigration Office:

- Regulation of all matters relating to immigration law (application for or extension of residence and settlement permits (Aufenthalts- und Niederlassungserlaubnissen))
- Renew an arrival certificate
- Issuing and extending temporary residence permits and tolerations (max. 6 months)
- Applying for a work permit
- Counselling in matters for entering the country (e.g.: family reunion, BlueCard, entry for employment)
- Get counselling regarding repatriation (leaving Germany voluntarily with support)
- Counselling in citizenship matters (naturalisation)

🐾 Steps following a positive decision from the BAMF

Apply for an electronic residence permit (eAT)

(1) Application for asylum

- You can use the "Online Application" or fill out the "Request for Residence Permit" form and send it to the local Residents' Registration Office. The form can be downloaded online or collected at the information desk of the Residents' Registration Office. When you come to the appointment to make your application, please bring an interpreter who can translate for you.


(2) Appointment


- As soon as the form has been received and processed by the Bureau for Foreigners (Ausländerbehörde), you will be sent a letter with date for an appointment as well as a list of all required documents
- Important: Ask for a probationary permit (Fiktionsbescheinigung) to be issued as a temporary replacement document (required for the [Job Centre](#)).


(3) Collection

- You will receive a letter informing you that you can pick up your new permit

District of Osnabrück Immigration Office

 [Am Schölerberg 1, 49082 Osnabrück](#)

 [0541/5017000](tel:0541/5017000)

 [@abh@lks.de](mailto:abh@lks.de)

 [Immigration Office](#)


Youth Welfare Office - Social Space

The Youth Welfare Office (Jugendamt) is the first point of contact for young people and guardians and provides a variety of counselling and support services.

In the District of Osnabrück there are eight teams of social workers who support families. In the community of Artland you will find the team from social space 1:

Social space 1

 [Lange Straße 59, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

 [0541/5019410](tel:0541/5019410)



[0541/50169410](tel:0541/50169410)

 [Youth Welfare Office - Social Space Team](#)

Asylum and refugees

Residence status (Aufenthaltsstatus)

Every person who seeks asylum in Germany needs to have an identification card (Ausweis). Your identification card provides details on your status and whether restrictions apply for any potential employment.

There are 5 types of documents:

1. Proof of arrival

Status: Asylum seekers

Background: A proof of arrival (certificate of registration as an asylum seeker) is issued to a foreigner if they have requested asylum and have been processed by the registration authorities but have not yet filed an asylum application. Valid for the period between registration as an asylum requester and official application for asylum at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF).



2. Temporary residence permit (Aufenthaltsgestattung)

Status: Asylum seekers

Background: Issued to foreigners who have officially applied for asylum until their application has been decided. The Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge – BAMF (Federal Office for Migration and Refugees) makes the decision to accept or reject your application. If the application for asylum is rejected for being unfounded, it is possible to appeal the decision before an administrative court. You are allowed to remain in Germany until the administrative court has reached its decision. [SG1]

The ID card for asylum seekers includes conditions of employment, residence and possibly territorial limitations.

- If you require a special permit to take on employment, apply for this permit at the [Bureau for Foreigners \(Ausländerbehörde\)](#) (employer or employee)
- Responsible for work placements: [Agentur für Arbeit \(Federal Employment Agency\)](#)
- Responsible for social services: [Social Welfare Office \(Sozialamt\)](#)



3. Probationary permit

Status: Recognised refugees

Background: Certificate confirming the existence of a temporary right of residence, which frequently accompanies the application for the granting or extension of a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) submitted to the Bureau for Foreigners (Ausländerbehörde).



4. Residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis)

Status: Recognised refugees

Background: Positive decision on the application for asylum

The residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) is a temporary residence permit (befristeter Aufenthaltstitel). It is issued in accordance with the Residence Act. For refugees, there are various types of residence permits (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) for humanitarian reasons.

- This opens up the option for a future indefinite right of residence (settlement permit, "Niederlassungserlaubnis")
- Unrestricted access to the labour market
- Responsibility for work placements and social benefits: [Job Centre](#)



5. Exceptional leave to remain (Duldung)

Status: Person with exceptional leave to remain (Geduldete)

Background: Negative decision on the application for asylum

A "Duldung" is a temporary postponement of deportation. This document is only granted if deportation is impossible for legal, practical, humanitarian or personal reasons.

- General regulation for temporary legal suspension of deportation for certain groups by order of the highest state authority for a maximum duration of 3 months ("suspension of deportation")
- A work permit is always necessary and can be requested from the [Bureau for Foreigners \(Ausländerbehörde\)](#) (employer or employee)
- Responsible for work placements: [Agentur für Arbeit \(Federal Employment Agency\)](#)
- Responsible for social services: [Social Welfare Office \(Sozialamt\)](#)



Application for asylum

If you are registered in German and live in shared accommodation, here are the next steps you need to take.

1. Personal application for asylum

- You apply for asylum at the **BundesAmt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF; Federal Office for Migration and Refugees)**.
- Asylum counselling can provide important information on the asylum process. Refugee and Integration Counselling is responsible for this
- **Important:** You can only submit your application in person. In other words, you cannot send this application by post
- You will receive the appointment and the responsible BAMF office with your proof of arrival. If you have not received an appointment, ask your accommodation facility management team

2. First interview appointment (asylum application)

After your first appointment, you must present yourself at the [Bureau for Foreigners \(Ausländerbehörde\)](#).

3. Personal hearing

The second interview appointment is the actual hearing. The BAMF decides on your asylum application and will send you their decision. This letter will contain a detailed description of the reasons for their decision.

a) The decision is negative

- If the decision is negative and you want to appeal (meaning that you do not agree), immediately go to your [Asylum Counselling Service](#). There they will discuss with you what you can do and you can be referred to specialised lawyers. One possible action for you is taking legal action to appeal the decision
- If you decide to leave the country voluntarily, you can receive financial support for your new start in your home country

b) The decision is positive, meaning that you are recognised as an asylum seeker. The next steps are:

Probationary permit (Fiktionsbescheinigung) or electronic residence permit (eAT): If a positive BAMF decision has been given, it is necessary to arrange an identity document or equivalent immediately. You will receive this from the [Residents' Registration Office \(Bureau for Foreigners\) \(Einwohneramt, Ausländerbehörde\)](#).

Job Centre: You will no longer receive your money from the Social Welfare Office; instead, you have to apply at the [Job Centre](#).

Family asylum and international protection for family members

Family members of those with subsidiary protection also receive asylum (by application) and the status of “person entitled to subsidiary protection” (right to asylum/status of refugee or subsidiary protection).

When it comes to family asylum, a family member is:

- A spouse or registered civil partner or cohabitant,
- any underage, unmarried children,
- the parents with custody (custody usually includes the rights of parents with respect to their children) of underage, unmarried children,
- other adult persons, who are the registered guardians of underage, unmarried children,
- the underage, unmarried siblings of minors.

The requirement for spouses is that a valid marriage had already taken place in the country of origin, the application for asylum was submitted before or at the same time as the spouse with subsidiary protection, at the latest immediately after their arrival in the country, and as long as the subsidiary protection is incontestable and not to be withdrawn.

Born in Germany:

If a child is born in Germany after the parents have applied for asylum, the legislator offers the possibility of a separate asylum procedure for the protection of children under certain conditions. For this, the parents (at least one must still be undergoing the asylum procedure) or the Ausländerbehörde (Immigration Office) must inform the Bundesamt (Federal Office) of the birth. In the interest of the new-born, the asylum application is automatically considered submitted. Parents can submit their own reasons for asylum for their child. If this is not done, the same reasons as those of the parents will apply. Legal action remains open in this case should an application be rejected by the Bundesamt (Federal Office).

In addition, for the protection of the child, under-age children cannot be separated from their parents if an application has been rejected.

You can find more information on this at the BAMF.

 [Family reunification website \(BAMF\)](#)

Asylum Counselling Service

The Asylum Counselling Services advises asylum seekers and new arrivals to Germany who are entitled to permanent residency.

The counselling starts with the daily concerns of asylum seekers and refugees and covers the following subject areas:

- Information and questions about the asylum process
- General legal information and assistance with administrative matters
- Orientation guides and local services
- Information and counselling for everyday problems
- Counselling on integration services (such as language courses)
- Consultation with administrative affairs
- Advice on questions concerning family immigration, BAMF, etc.
- Referral to other specialist services
- Services for voluntarily returning to your home country or leaving Germany
- Contact person for volunteers (technical questions in connection with the asylum procedure)
- And much more

💡 Do you have a definitive right of residence? Then the [migration advice service for adult immigrants](#) can help. Adults aged 27 and over - including families, of course - are advised there.

💡 For young people and young adults aged between 12 and 27 years old, the [Youth Migration Service \(Jugendmigrationsdienst\)](#) is the right point of contact.

You can also find help at the Caritasverband für die Diözese Osnabrück e.V. The Caritas Association offers counselling on refugee and migration law, migration counselling for adult immigrants and family reunification. You can find more information [here](#).

Language

Information

In order to orient yourself in Germany in the long term, it is very important to learn the German language, both for your personal life and also for your career.

There are various options for this in the community of Artland. The following educational institutions and associations can help you find a suitable language course for you. Arrange an appointment with them or go there directly during opening hours.

Educational institution:

vhs Osnabrücker Land

📍 [Am Schölerberg 1, 49082 Osnabrück](#)

☎ [0541/5017777](#)

@ info@vhs-osland.de

🌐 [Website](#)

DAA Quakenbrück

📍 [Lange Straße 34, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

☎ [05431/963970](tel:05431963970)

@ info.quakenbrueck@daa.de

🌐 [Website](#)

IN VIA e.V.

📍 [Markt 5, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

☎ [05431/904190](tel:05431904190)

@ info@invia-quakenbrueck.de

🌐 [Website](#)

The [Migration Centre](#), which is responsible for the District of Osnabrück, can also advise you on the various language course offers and help you make your choice.

Ms Stefanie Gelli is responsible for the community of Artland. You can reach them as follows:

Migration Centre

Ms Stefanie Gelli

☎ [0541/5012161](tel:05415012161)

@ gellis@massarbeit.de

🌐 [Website](#)

Level of language ability and certificates

There are different levels of language ability. The levels used in language and integration courses correspond to the Common European Framework:

Language level A: elementary language use

Language level B: independent use of language (necessary for training or work)

Language level C: competent use of language (necessary for studies and certain professions)

There are even more sub-divisions in the levels:

A1: Beginners

A2: Basic knowledge

B1: Advanced language skills

B2: Independent language skills

C1: Expert language skills

C2: Approaching native speaker proficiency

The six steps in detail are:

A1: Beginners

You can understand and use simple words and sentences.

You can introduce yourself and others. For example: My name is Maria. I am 30 years old. I live in Germany. This is my boyfriend. His name is Paul.

You can ask personal questions. For example: What is your name? Where do you live?

You can answer questions. For example: How are you? I'm doing well.

You can talk to a person if they speak slowly and clearly.

A2: Basic knowledge

You can understand full sentences and frequently used words. You can understand words for the following topics: Information about you as a person and your family, shopping, work and your

surroundings.

You can express yourself in simple, everyday situations. You can describe where you come from, what kind of education you have and your surroundings.

B1: Advanced language skills

You can understand a lot if it's about work, school or leisure, for example. You can express yourself when travelling. You can speak about topics you are familiar with and your personal interests. You can report on experiences you have had. You can describe your dreams, hopes and goals. You can provide brief reasons or explanations for your plans and opinions.

B2: Independent language skills

You can understand the most important parts of complex texts on both specific and abstract topics. You can even understand expert discussions in topics you know well.

You can express yourself spontaneously and fluently. It is possible for you to have a normal conversation with native speakers without a great deal of effort from either party. You can express yourself on a variety of topics clearly and in detail. You can articulate an opinion on a question you have been asked. You can state the pros and cons of various possibilities.

C1: Expert language skills

You can understand much of longer, complex texts. You can also grasp implicit meaning in the text.

You can express yourself spontaneously and fluently. You rarely have to search for the right word. You can use the target language effectively and flexibly in your social and professional life and/or in a vocational training programme or at university. You can articulate your opinion on complex topics clearly, extensively and in a well-structured way. In doing so, you can appropriately use various methods of referring to the text.

C2: (Approaching) native speaker proficiency

You can understand practically everything you read or hear without effort.

You can summarise information from a variety of written and oral sources. You can reproduce reasoning and explanations in a cohesive way. You can express yourself spontaneously, precisely and very fluently. You can make subtle nuances of meaning clear, even for more complex issues.

Language Courses

Initial Orientation Courses

The **German courses for initial language orientation** (also known as initial orientation courses) provide both elementary knowledge of German as well as information about life in Germany. The content constitutes a practical first experience for participants in a new social environment and helps with their orientation in everyday life. A course consists of 300 teaching units of 45 minutes each. The 6 modules of the course can be composed of the following modules, whereby the module "Values and Living Together" is fixed:

- Health/medical care,
- Work,
- Kindergarten/school,
- Housing,
- Local orientation/transport/mobility,

- Everyday life in Germany,
- Shopping,
- Media use in Germany,
- Customs and traditions in Germany,
- Values and coexistence,
- Talking about oneself and others/ Social contacts

Spoken communication is the main focus: Participants should learn as quickly as possible how to find their way around in everyday life. In the case of initial orientation courses, it is also a question of teaching values.

Initial orientation courses are primarily intended for asylum seekers with an unclear prospect of permanent residence. Provided that there are free places on the course, recognised asylum seekers with good prospects of permanent residence may also participate. However, the initial orientation courses are not intended for persons who must attend school or vocational colleges. If you are given access to an [integration course](#) while participating in an initial orientation course, it is possible to switch. The people in the courses have very different backgrounds. Illiterate people can attend the courses as well as graduates. Initial orientation courses are free of charge.

💡 The course language is German – interpreters are not present on the course. You can find more information [here](#).

💡 Contact the [Employment Agency](#), the [Job Centre](#) or the [Migration Centre](#). They will help you to find a suitable course.

Integration Courses

In the general **integration course** you will learn German up to language level B1 (language course) in 600 lessons. In 100 further lessons you will gain insights into the culture, politics and social customs in Germany (orientation course). There are also special forms of the integration course, such as the 900 classroom hour youth integration course, which in some instances include more or fewer classroom lessons. The integration courses are free of charge for refugees as well as for other target groups receiving social benefits.

The integration course concludes with the "Deutschtest für Zuwanderer" (DTZ) and "Leben in Deutschland" (LiD) examinations.

You can be required to attend an integration course by the [Job Centre](#) or by the [Immigration Office](#). If you are not obliged but would like to attend an integration course, you can apply for the integration course at the [BAMF](#). If you need assistance with the application, contact the [Migration Centre](#). They will also support you in choosing an integration course provider.

Literacy courses

Not only in the German population, but also among immigrants, there are people who cannot read and write sufficiently. Many of them have to overcome this additional hurdle: They are supposed to speak German and learn to read and write the script at the same time. The literacy course helps people to do this.

In the literacy course, these people learn in 1000 lessons that they too can learn to read and write successfully. They learn in small groups so that the teacher has more time for each person. They learn to support each other and what makes learning easier for them. In this way, they discover potential that facilitates active participation in social life. This also includes the use of a textbook that makes it easier for them to participate in further language courses.

Further information is available from the [Migration Centre](#), the [Youth Migration Service](#), the [Immigration Office](#), the [Employment Agency](#) or the [Job Centre](#).

Vocational Language Courses (DeuFöV)

Vocational German language ("DeuFöV") courses help to improve your own German language skills, for example after you have completed an integration course. You can take the so-called DeuFöV courses during your career, training or a vocational qualification measure or as preparation for starting a career in Germany

The basic modules of the DeuFöV courses are aimed at guiding you to speaking level C1 in two courses of 400 classroom lessons. Each of these courses concludes with a certificate examination. In addition to the basic courses, there are also various special courses with different emphases.

In order to participate in a vocational German course, you need either a certificate of admission or a certificate of obligation. You can get this either from the [Job Centre](#) or the [Employment Agency](#) or by applying to the [BAMF](#).

💡 Prerequisite for participation is a language fluency level of at least B1.

Interpreter

Find an interpreter

If you go to a government office or authority such as the Immigration Office, you need an **interpreter**. But an interpreter is also very helpful at parents' evenings at school or kindergarten.

💡 Some government offices and institutions have interpreters themselves and can use them in the counselling sessions. When you make an appointment, please always ask if an interpreter is provided free of charge.

💡 In Germany, official documents, such as credentials and marriage or birth certificates, may only be translated by certified translators. These translations can be very expensive. Please check beforehand whether you really need a certified translation and compare the translation prices.

Become an interpreter

You speak German very well? Then you can support your compatriots who do not speak the German language. For example, you can accompany them to government offices or other

appointments. This activity is carried out on a voluntary basis. Report to:

Social Integration Unit

Jana Kellers, Franziska Pohlers

📍 [Markt 2, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

☎ [05431/182130](tel:05431182130), [131](tel:05431182131)

📄 [05431/182145](tel:05431182145)

@ kellers@artland.de pohlers@artland.de

Current language course offer

Current language course offers will be published here soon.

Education, Work und University Studies

Basic information about training, work and study

The conditions with which you may work in Germany depend on your residence status. For basic information and the relevant contact persons when looking for work, see [access to the job market](#).

If you have already completed school or vocational education abroad, you should make sure that these qualifications are recognised. For more information, see the section on [recognition of foreign qualifications](#).

In Germany there are about 400 training occupations. If you are looking for vocational training, please find further information and contact details in this section: [Vocational training \(dual and full-time school-based\)](#).

Children and youths must go to [school](#) from the age of six years old. General schooling is attended before starting training or university studies.

If you would like to study, you can find suitable information and contact persons in this section: [University studies](#).

Postponement of deportation due to vocational training (Ausbildungsduldung)

If you wish to learn a profession during your current asylum procedure, you may complete this vocational training regardless of the outcome of your asylum procedure.

If your asylum application is finally rejected, you will receive a postponement of deportation due to vocational training (Ausbildungsduldung) until the end of your training. After successful completion of the training, you will then have 6 months to find employment corresponding to your vocational qualification and, after taking up this employment, you can obtain a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) for an initial period of 2 years.

However, it is pointed out in advance that you can only be permitted to take up training if your identity and origin are clarified beyond doubt before the start of training and you have presented a passport, identity card or other conclusive documents.

There are certain deadlines for clarifying your identity, please ask at the [Immigration Office](#) or a [Migration Counselling Centre](#) regarding this.

BAföG - Federal Training Assistance Act

An education grant for pupils in a school-based education can be applied for at the District of Osnabrück. All the following information refers only to this group of people. Students should contact the student union responsible for them at the location of your university, Fachschule or academy.

Pupils with a training contract for in-company training are not entitled to BAföG benefits. You can apply for a vocational training allowance (BAB; Berufsausbildungsbeihilfe) at the relevant [employment office](#).

Which educational path is supported?

In principle, students who want to obtain a vocational qualification or a secondary school graduation certificate can receive BAföG. For those attending a general education school, however, this only applies from grade 10 onwards and only if accommodation outside the parental home is necessary. This is the case when the desired degree cannot be done nearby.

Maximum rate of training assistance

■ The amount of training assistance is calculated according to the current income and assets of the apprentice, as well as the income of his/her spouse or civil partner and his/her parents (in each case from the calendar year before last; exception: non-parental support).

Application

In order to avoid unnecessary delays, the application for training assistance should be submitted at least 3 months before the start of the training / new training period.

It should be noted that training assistance is paid from the beginning of the month in which the training is started, but at the earliest from the beginning of the month of application.

If you have any questions about this, please contact:

Osnabrück Student Union
Student Finance Department

☎ [05419696310](tel:05419696310)

📍 [Neuer Graben 27, 49074 Osnabrück](#)

or

District of Osnabrück
Federal Training Assistance

☎ [05415014448](tel:05415014448)

📍 [Am Schölerberg 1, 49082 Osnabrück](#)

Looking for work

Access to the Job Market

If you are still in an ongoing asylum procedure, you can already apply for a work permit at the [Immigration Office](#) after you have been assigned to the District of Osnabrück and integrate economically.

For this, you must meet the following requirements:

1. Your identity must be clarified. (Proof by presenting your passport or identity card, legalised birth certificate or extract from the register, in each case with photograph)
2. You will need a "Declaration of Employment Relationship" completed in full by your employers, which you can obtain from the Bureau for Foreigners (Ausländerbehörde).
3. You must have your own bank account so that your wages can be transferred;
4. The [Employment Agency \(Agentur für Arbeit\)](#) must agree (not applicable after 4 years of residence in Germany);

If you meet all the above requirements, the [Bureau for Foreigners \(Ausländerbehörde\)](#) will grant you a work permit and note this in your temporary residence permit (Aufenthaltsgestattung).

If you already have an exceptional leave to remain (Duldung), you can also be granted permission to work under the above-mentioned conditions, provided that you did not cause or are not responsible for the circumstance preventing your departure.

If you have any further questions, please contact the staff member responsible for you at the [Bureau for Foreigners \(Ausländerbehörde\)](#).

Employment contract

Anyone who starts a job gets an employment contract. This regulates the most important conditions of an employment relationship, such as working hours, holiday entitlement, salary and notice periods. Both sides – workers and employers – must abide by these agreements. Because a contract is legally binding once you have signed it, you should only sign it when you understand its content completely.

Types of contracts:

Permanent job contract (Unbefristeter Arbeitsvertrag)

As a general rule, there is a probationary period of three to six months. During this time, the employment relationship can be terminated at short notice within two weeks, both by the employer and by the employee. At the end of the probationary period, a permanent employment relationship begins with longer protection against dismissal. Working hours are usually up to 40 hours a week.

Fixed-term job contract (Befristeter Arbeitsvertrag)

The employment ends at the agreed time, without the need for notice of resignation.

Minijob

The maximum monthly salary is €538 and is not taxed.

Labour law:

There are numerous laws that regulate and ensure the rights of employees in Germany. That includes, for example:

- Regulation of working time
- Minimum wage
- Leave claim
- Dismissal Protection
- Employee representation (works council)
- Trade union labour regulations
- and a few more

Taxes and social security payments:

Every employee in Germany pays part of their wages as taxes to finance federal, state and local government spending. Employers, in turn, are required to pay social security contributions for their employees. The German social system thus aims to make sure that, if people can't find work, or are no longer able to work, their key living costs will still be covered.

Tax ID number:

The tax ID is a 11-digit number and is used for income tax. The employer needs this number. If you do not have this number in your documents, you can ask for it personally at the registration office (Meldebehörde) or in writing from the Federal Tax Office (Bundesamt für Steuern).

Social security number:

For a job, you need a social security number. This can be obtained from your health insurer (e.g. AOK, DAK).

Illegal work:

You have a job that is paid. But this work is not registered with the Tax Office and health insurance. You therefore do not pay taxes or social security contributions. That is **illegal**. It can be punished with fines and prison! Do you receive social benefits or unemployment benefit? But you work anyway? You didn't tell the Social Welfare Office, the employment agency or the Job Centre? That is also **illegal**. You are wrongly receiving state benefits although you are in paid work.

Legal advice for labour migrants

You come from abroad, work in Germany and have questions about your job? Then the advice centre for labour migrants in the District of Vechta will support you. They answer questions such as:

- whether you are paid the wage or minimum wage to which you are entitled
- whether the deductions from your wages are justified
- whether your employment contract is correct
- whether you are covered by social insurance (including health insurance)

- whether you can make a claim
- whether your dismissal is effective and you enjoy protection against dismissal

Contact:

Advice centre for mobile workers

☎ [0541338071812](tel:0541338071812) or [0541338071817](tel:0541338071817)

📍 [August-Bebel-Platz 1, 49074 Osnabrück](#)

Job applications and interviews

If you would like to start a vocational training programme (Ausbildung) or get a job in Germany, you need to submit a written application.

Usually, you apply to a company that posted a job vacancy online or in a newspaper. Posting a vacancy means that the company is looking for new employees. The job advertisement describes what type of work or vocational training it involves and what the company expects of the employee. It is also stated there where and how you have to apply.

If the company is interested in you, you will normally be invited to a job interview, which gives you a chance to introduce yourself in person. Please plan enough time for the interview and always make sure to arrive on time for your appointment. Before the interview, you should prepare thoroughly and research into the company. Take a look at the company's website and read about its history; research the products or services it offers. Arriving on time for your appointment and asking questions during the interview demonstrates your motivation for and interest in the vocational training programme or job.

An application usually consists of three parts:

Cover letter: In your personal cover letter, you briefly introduce yourself and say why you are suitable for the vacant position. For example, describe what previous experience you have gained in your home country. Find out about the company and explain why you want to work there. Your covering letter should fit on one page. Sign your covering letter. There are many templates and guides online. It is important not simply to copy something you find. Your cover letter needs to be unique to you and suitable for the position.

CV: The CV (curriculum vitae) lists your entire professional experience and is set out in the form of a table. Write the dates during which you worked with each company. Include where you undertook training or a course of studies. Specify where you went to school and what type of qualification you left with. You do not have to include a photo in your CV, but many companies prefer it if you do.

Credentials and references: It is very important that you include copies of your credentials and references in the application (do not send the original documents!). They include your school-leaving certificate, your university degree and any job references from the past. They should be in German or English – if they are not, you should have them translated. You should also send certificates from any internships, work-relevant professional development courses, or German courses you have taken.

💡 The job advert provides information about how to apply. Please read it carefully.

Written (hard copy) applications: Buy a nice application folder and insert your cover letter, CV, and credentials and references. Then mail the application to the address mentioned in the job advertisement.

E-mail: These days, many applications are sent by email. Bring your covering letter, your CV and your certificates and references together into a single PDF file. Add the PDF file as an attachment to the email. Write a short text in the email to the person who will receive your application.

Online: Large companies have their own website through which you have to apply. You need to register with your email address before you can send your application through the website.

🌐 You can find some more helpful tips for your application at [Planet Beruf \("Planet Career"\)](#).

🌐 [Europass](#) is a multilingual (more than 20 languages) online platform that helps immigrants make their skills and expertise obvious to others. It offers a free online tool for creating a "language passport" or CV. You can also find important tips on writing good applications on Europass.

🌐 You can have a free CV and cover letter created here: [Bewerbung.net](#), [StepStone](#) or [Lebenslauf2go](#). You may also be able to import your data from Xing or LinkedIn. It is also possible to write your own text within the template or import files.

🌐 You can find more information and templates for cover letters and CVs here: [Bewerbung2go](#), [BewerbungsWissen](#), [Karrierebibel](#)

Language practice

🌐 You can find exercises for practising job applications and general aspects of starting a career on the [VHS learning portal "I want to learn German"](#) and on the [Goethe-Institut's website "German for you"](#). You can learn more about the professional world and improve your German language skills.

Immigration of Skilled Workers

The Skilled Workers Immigration Act (Fachkräfteeinwanderungsgesetz)

The Skilled Workers Immigration Act makes it easier for skilled workers with vocational, non-academic training to immigrate to Germany for work purposes. Existing regulations for skilled workers with university degrees will be maintained and in some cases made even easier.

1. For companies:

- **Accelerated skilled worker procedure:** With the power of attorney of the skilled worker, employers can file an accelerated skilled worker procedure with the competent Bureau for Foreigners (Ausländerbehörde) in Germany. An agreement must be concluded between the company and the Bureau for Foreigners (Ausländerbehörde). Among other things, the agreement must contain the powers of attorney and responsibilities of the employer, the skilled worker and the authorities involved (Bureau for Foreigners (Ausländerbehörde), Federal Employment Agency (Bundesagentur für Arbeit), recognition offices, diplomatic representation abroad) as well as a description of the procedures including the parties involved and deadlines.
- The **fees** for the accelerated skilled worker procedure at the Bureau for Foreigners (Ausländerbehörde) come to 411 euros. In addition, there is a visa fee of 75 euros as well as

any other applicable fees (certified copies, translations).

- **The Bureau for Foreigners (Ausländerbehörde) advises the employer** and supports them in carrying out the procedure for the recognition of the foreign qualification of the skilled worker. The Bureau for Foreigners (Ausländerbehörde) shall obtain the approval of the Federal Employment Agency (Bundesagentur für Arbeit) and check the conditions for granting the permit under aliens law. The recognition offices and the Federal Employment Agency (Bundesagentur für Arbeit) must decide within the specified deadlines.
- If all **requirements** are met, the Bureau for Foreigners (Ausländerbehörde) will issue a so-called advance approval, which it will then send to the employer for forwarding to the skilled worker. The skilled worker then books an appointment with the diplomatic representation abroad to apply for the visa, which will take place within three weeks. At this appointment, the original advance approval must be presented together with other documents required for the visa application.
- Once the completed **visa application** has been submitted by the skilled worker, a decision will normally be made on it within an additional three weeks.
- The **accelerated procedure** for skilled workers also includes the skilled worker's spouse and underage, unmarried children if they meet the legal requirements for family reunification.

2. For skilled workers

- **Definition of skilled worker:** Skilled workers are defined as persons with a university degree or qualified vocational training of at least two years. A prerequisite for both groups is that their foreign qualifications have been recognised by the competent authority in Germany.
- **Labour market entry:** Entry into the labour market will be made easier: The qualified skilled worker must have an employment contract and a concrete job offer and a qualification recognised in Germany. The so-called priority review by the Federal Employment Agency (Bundesagentur für Arbeit; BA) no longer applies. This means that it is no longer necessary to check whether an applicant from Germany or the EU is available for the specific job. The examination of working conditions by the BA remains in place.
- **Employment opportunities:** A skilled worker may be employed in an occupation that their qualification allows them to do. This means that it is possible to work in related professions. Additionally, skilled workers with an academic education are allowed to work outside of jobs that require a university degree. They may also be employed in other qualified occupations which fall within the professional context of the qualification and for which, in principle, vocational, non-academic training is required. Assistant professions and training professions are excluded, it must be qualified employment in all cases. The EU Blue Card always requires employment appropriate to the professional qualification, which usually requires an academic degree.
- **Skilled workers with vocational training:** The employment of skilled workers with vocational, i.e. non-academic training is no longer limited to occupations with shortages. With a vocational training that has been recognised in Germany, residence permits (Aufenthaltstitel) for qualified employment will also allow these skilled workers access to all professions in which their qualifications allow them to work.
- **Entering the country to find a job:** Skilled workers with qualified vocational training are also able to enter the country to look for a job. You will receive a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) for up to six months. Prerequisites are that the foreign qualification has been recognised by the competent authority in Germany, that your livelihood is secured for the duration of your stay and that you have the appropriate knowledge of German for the

job you are seeking. As a rule, a minimum knowledge of German at level B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages is required. During your stay while looking for a job, trial employment of up to ten hours a week is possible. This allows employers and foreign skilled workers to test whether they are suitable for each other. Trial employment is also possible for skilled workers with recognised academic qualifications, who are also allowed to enter the country for up to six months in order to look for work, as before.

- **Residence for qualification purposes:** The possibilities of staying in Germany for qualification purposes are being expanded. The prerequisite for this is generally that a recognition procedure from abroad has been carried out at the competent authority in Germany, in which deficits have been identified in the acquired foreign qualification in comparison to the German training (notice of recognition). An additional requirement for the issue of a visa for the purpose of undergoing qualification programmes is above all a knowledge of German corresponding to the qualification programme. These are usually at least sufficient German language skills (corresponding to language level A2). For example, the 18-month residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) can now be extended by six months to a maximum period of two years for this purpose. After expiry of the maximum period of the residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis), a residence permit may be issued for the purpose of training, study or employment.
- **Settlement permit (Niederlassungserlaubnis) for skilled workers** from abroad: Foreign skilled workers can obtain a settlement permit (Niederlassungserlaubnis) in Germany after only four years (previously five years).

3. For training and studies

- **Entering the country to find a training placement:** It is already possible for prospective students to enter the country in search of a university placement. Under the new regulation, people interested in training can also enter the country to look for a training placement. Requirements are a level B2 knowledge of German, a degree from a German school abroad or a graduation certificate that entitles the holder to enter university, a maximum age of 25 years and independent livelihood provisions.
- **German language course** in preparation for training: With a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) for a qualified vocational training course, a German language course or a job-related German language course may be attended in preparation.
- **Expanded changeover possibilities for international students** in Germany: International students already have the opportunity to change to other residence permits (Aufenthaltstitel) even before they have completed their studies. For example, instead of continuing their studies, they can start vocational training and receive a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) for vocational training. The Skilled Workers Immigration Act has expanded the possibilities for such changes: Under special conditions and after examination by the BA, a job offer as a skilled worker can be accepted even during a study visit or a stay for vocational training or further education. This is accompanied by a change to a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) for qualified employment.
- **Settlement permit (Niederlassungserlaubnis) for graduates** of an apprenticeship in Germany: Under the new law, foreign graduates of vocational training in Germany can, just like university graduates, obtain a settlement permit (Niederlassungserlaubnis) after only two years.

🌐 This and more information can also be found on the page [Make it in Germany](#)

🌐 Here you can also perform a [quick test](#) to see your possibilities!

Self-employment

The community of Artland supports you in setting up your own business - with advisory services and development programmes.

We help you to clarify important questions. For example:

- How and where can I register my business?
- What legal requirements do I have to observe?
- How do I finance my self-employment?
- Is my start-up project profitable? Is it worth it?
- Am I entitled to a start-up grant or other subsidies?

💡 By coordinating and cooperating with other advice centres such as the IHK, HWK and the Employment Agency (Agentur für Arbeit) as well as contacts with credit institutions and tax consulting companies, we offer you a comprehensive counselling service.

Contact

Business development of the community of Artland

Ms Imholte

☎ [054319067580](tel:054319067580)

@ imholte@artland.de

Career Guidance

Find out about professions and the labour market in your region.

In our Career Information Centre BiZ you will find a comprehensive range of information on:

- Vocational training and university studies
- Job profiles and their requirements
- Professional qualifications and further and advanced training courses
- Application and job search
- Employment opportunities and alternatives
- Job opportunities abroad
- Current developments on the labour market

Computers with internet access are available for your research and applications. You can use the extensive information material on careers free of charge or take it home with you: for example, application guides, study guides and magazines on the subject of starting a business or continuing education.

If you have any questions, the staff at the [Employment Agency](#) will be happy to help you.

Education (dual training and full-time school)

In Germany, it is a great advantage to have a **vocational qualification** before going to work. People with professional qualifications earn more money on average over the course of their lives, are less likely to be unemployed, and are less likely to have temporary contracts than those without professional qualifications.

Dual training

A special feature in Germany is the dual training system. About one third of the time, dual vocational training takes place at the vocational school and about two thirds of the time at a training company. You can simultaneously learn theory and practice while earning money at a company during your apprenticeship.

Depending on the type of profession you would like to learn in dual training, you should contact the right place:

Chamber of Crafts (HWK; Handwerkskammer)

The Chamber of Crafts (HWK) is responsible for craft trades. These are professions such as baker, brick mason or painter.

Chamber of Crafts (Handwerkskammer) Osnabrück-Emsland-Grafschaft Bentheim

📍 [Bramscher Straße 134-146, 49088 Osnabrück](#)

☎ [054169290](tel:054169290)

@ info@hwk-osnabrueck.de

Chamber of Industry and Commerce (IHK Industrie- und Handelskammer)

The Chamber of Industry and Commerce (IHK) is responsible for professions in industrial manufacturing, trade and services. Here, for example, it concerns plant mechanics or traders in wholesale and foreign trade.

IHK Osnabrück - Emsland - Grafschaft Bentheim

📍 [Neuer Graben 38, 49074 Osnabrück](#)

☎ [05413530](tel:05413530)

@ ihk@osnabrueck.ihk.de

Lower Saxony Chamber of Agriculture (LWK; Landwirtschaftskammer)

The Chamber of Agriculture (Landwirtschaftskammer) is responsible for professions in agriculture and forestry. These include, for example, jobs such as farmer, fish farmer, gardener, from housekeeping to milking technology.

Osnabrück District Office of the Lower Saxony Chamber of Agriculture (Landwirtschaftskammer; LWK)

📍 [Am Schölerberg 7, 49082 Osnabrück](#)

☎ [0541560080](tel:0541560080)

@ bst.osnabrueck@lwk-niedersachsen.de

Preschool education at the vocational school

In Germany, however, not only is there the option for dual training, but there is also full-time school-based training at a vocational school (Berufsfachschule). This type of training provides a completed vocational training in theory and practice outside of the dual training system (without an apprenticeship at a company). It usually lasts two to three and a half years. Classes are held full-time and include general education subjects as well as occupation-related subjects. Since the vocational schools differ greatly in terms of their faculties, admission requirements, training duration and further education possibilities, it is advisable to make enquiries at the school in question.

Vocational schools Bersenbrück

Vocational schools Bersenbrück

📍 [Ravensbergstraße 15, 49593 Bersenbrück](#)

☎ [0543994020](#)

💡 The Osnabrück training region has its own [homepage](#). The internet portal for the Osnabrück training region summarises the regional offers for vocational orientation in the city and district of Osnabrück, provides a better overview and helps with targeted career choices. There you will therefore find important and up-to-date information on the transition from school to work - regardless of whether you are a pupil, mother or father, teacher, entrepreneur.

Studies

General information

In Germany, there are many different courses of study. There are also different types of universities:

Universitäten = universities (more academically focused)

(Fach-)Hochschulen = universities of applied sciences; polytechnics (more practically focused)

Duale Hochschulen = "dual universities" (very practically focused)

Kunst- Film und Musikhochschulen = universities for art, film and music (for the arts and performing arts)

There are public and private universities. Private universities are not necessarily better than public ones - however, students usually have to pay high tuition fees at private universities.

You can find many helpful sites online:

Hochschulkompass (Higher Education Compass) (list of all courses of study and universities in Germany)

Study in Germany (information for refugees)

Study programme orientation from the Employment Agency

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (German Academic Exchange Service)

Prerequisites

If you want to study in Germany, you need a university entrance qualification. If you do not have an Abitur degree from a German school, you need to check whether the secondary school degree you obtained in your home country is sufficient for you to enter a German university. You can find more detailed information on the Anabin website, through the "Recognition in

Germany" information portal and on the website of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

You also need to bring proof of your good German language skills (level C1), such as a certificate from the TestDaF, DSH or telc Deutsch C1 Hochschule.

It is also possible to get support from the educational counselling organisation Garantiefonds Hochschule.

Some universities also offer preparatory semesters during which you can learn German.

You should get information directly from the university at which you would like to study. Most universities have counselling services available. Also make note of the deadlines by which you need to apply for a course of study!

Tuition fees for international students from non-EU countries:

The University of Ulm's website provides detailed information on tuition fees for foreign students in Baden-Württemberg. EU immigrants and most refugees do not have to pay tuition fees.

People with university entrance qualifications do not have to pay tuition fees either! You can also find information there regarding tuition fees for a second degree.

Financing

Many people work in order to finance their studies. However, during term time (semesters), you must not work more than 20 hours a week. You can also try to get financial support from the government.

BAföG = Federal Training Assistance Act

With BAföG, students receive a monthly stipend for a limited period of time. The amount of money you will receive depends on your individual circumstances. Not every student is eligible for BAföG. If you receive asylum seekers' benefits, you cannot receive BAföG. BAföG is only provided for full-time students.

You can find an Arabic-language online tutorial about BAföG at www.youtube.com/BAföG/arabisch

Bursary

A grant or scholarship is financial support which can be used for university studies, for example. There are many grants for which you can apply. And not just for the first semester but for your whole course of studies. You can get an overview on the website www.stipendienlotse.de. Some take account of social engagement, political orientation, degree programme, grades or personal circumstances. Some organisations also cooperate with certain Hochschulen.

The "Deutschlandstipendium" (www.deutschlandstipendium.de), available in simple language, English and German, itself has a wide range of support offers, which also means that it can be accessible to many students.

Without a university entrance qualification

If you are eligible to study at university in your home country, but not in Germany, you may be able to get access to higher education through a preparatory college (Studienkolleg). There, foreign university applicants are given targeted preparation for future studies at a German research university or university of applied sciences.

Studies

Osnabrück University

The range of courses offered at the [Osnabrück University](#) is characterised by a large number of degree programmes. The university offers around 185 different degree programmes in various languages, divided into the departments of cultural and social sciences, education and cultural studies, physics, biology/chemistry, linguistics and literary studies, mathematics/computer science, humanities, economics and law.

Information on language skills can be found [here](#).

The International Office is also available to answer any questions.

International Office

☎ [05419694599](tel:05419694599)

@international@uni-osnabrueck.de

Contact

Osnabrück University

📍 [Neuer Graben/Schloss, 49074 Osnabrück](#)

☎ [05419690](tel:05419690)

@studios@uni-osnabrueck.de

Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences

[Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences](#) offers 100 different Bachelor's, Master's and continuing education programmes. Dual study and study in English is also possible here. The university offers semester-long German courses and intensive language courses for international students. All information concerning "International" can be found [here](#).

The university also offers advice on all admission criteria, offers and opportunities via the following contact:

Center for International Students

☎ [05419693229](tel:05419693229)

@international@hs-osnabrueck.de

Tatjana Maier - Counselling for international students and prospective students

☎ [05419693045](tel:05419693045)

@t.maier@hs-osnabrueck.de

Meike Arnold - Internationalisation Officer at the Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences

☎ [05419697094](tel:05419697094)

@m.arnold@hs-osnabrueck.de

Contact

Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences

📍 [Albrechtstraße 30, 49076 Osnabrück](#)

☎ [05419690](tel:05419690)

@webmaster@hs-osnabrueck.de

The [Central Student Advisory Service Osnabrück](#) is available for questions.

University of Vechta

The study programmes offered by the [University of Vechta](#) are characterised by specialisations in the fields of education and upbringing (teaching profession) as well as social

services (e.g. social work or management of social services). In addition, there is a wide range of subjects from English Studies to "Economics and Ethics: Social Business".

All degree programmes at the [University of Vechta](#) are offered in German. Therefore, proven German language skills at level C1 (e.g. Telc C1 Hochschule, TestDaF, DSH-2) are required for the application (or proven B2 skills for admission with the requirement to submit proof of language proficiency at a later date).

Recognition & post-qualification for foreign teachers

The [University of Vechta](#) supports foreign teachers on their way back into the profession.

Teacher training is not the same in all countries. That is why there is an adaptation course at the University of Vechta. Foreign teachers can make up for missing achievements. Afterwards, you can work as a fully-fledged teacher at German schools.

The "Back to School" programme prepares students for the adaptation course and provides individual support for participants in the adaptation course.

Support for international prospective students, students and teachers

The [University of Vechta](#) supports prospective international students, students and teachers through various offers, including

- Advice
- "Back to School" programme for foreign teachers
- Mentoring programmes for students
- German Courses
- other (for example social or cultural) offers

Contact

University of Vechta

📍 [Driverstraße 22D, 49377 Vechta](#)

@ international.office@uni-vechta.de

Study offer

☎ [04441/15437](tel:0444115437)

Recognition & post-qualification for foreign teachers

☎ [04441/15610](tel:0444115610)

Support for international prospective students, students and teachers

☎ [04441/15437](tel:0444115437)

At other universities, some degree programmes are also offered in English. Information on all degree programmes in Germany and the language of instruction is provided by the [Hochschulkompass](#).

Financing and Scholarships

As a student in Germany, it is possible to receive financial support through the Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz, a federal act for promoting higher education referred to as "BAföG" for short. The payments are made monthly and, in the best case, continue for the

duration of your course of study. The monthly sum provided by the BAföG can be somewhere between €399 and €735. Half of the BAföG total must be paid back after course of study has been completed. The exact information on the BAföG changes regularly and can therefore be found under the following link:

[!\[\]\(919a2cb85b99741a73c0c31a427236a8_img.jpg\) Website about BAföG for refugees and migrants](#)

As an alternative to the BAföG, it is also possible to get a scholarship. In contrast to the BAföG, a scholarship usually does not need to be paid back. Therefore, one must perform well and take on some voluntary commitments in order to be awarded a scholarship. The amount is often calculated in line with the BAföG. There is also an additional €300 paid monthly, this is known as “Büchergeld”.

Organisations that award scholarships are often described as foundations that offer scholarships. The following foundations offer programmes, among other things, especially for refugees. Please refer to the respective websites for application guidelines and requirements.

[!\[\]\(d66ff64371a51729ac8c1cdaa685ba6f_img.jpg\) Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung \(FES\) - Scholarships for Refugees](#)

[!\[\]\(e3f8612927870f2e0f9f5989e6dd3064_img.jpg\) Böckler-Aktion Bildung by the Hans-Böckler-Stiftung](#)

[!\[\]\(003082e50e3009141f59bd5df831749f_img.jpg\) Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung \(KAS\) - Scholarships for Refugees](#)

[!\[\]\(17413706fd4997a1a4bdf85c6864eee1_img.jpg\) Villigst - Our Scholarships for refugees](#)

[!\[\]\(faf942dc3e59ce8eb64b4ac481eca7e0_img.jpg\) Brot für die Welt - Flüchtlingsstipendienprogramm \(Refugee Scholarship Program\)](#)

One exception is, for example, the guarantee fund by Otto Benecke Stiftung. The programme is aimed at migrants who are new in the country and who would like to get the higher education entrance qualification, prepare to go to university, and start their academic career. There is also the Deutschland-Stipendium that provides €300 monthly as financial support. The Deutschland-Stipendium is awarded through the respective universities.

[!\[\]\(d3102649f02e825ddb76dc3de0190154_img.jpg\) University guarantee fund from Otto Benecke Stiftung in Bonn](#)

[!\[\]\(4b7a79268f6ba26c1471d4232fffa85a_img.jpg\) Deutschlandstipendium: Become a scholarship holder](#)

You will find further information on the website for the ‘Hochschulaktion für Geflüchtete’ (College action for refugees) and from the database at the German Ministry for Education and Research (Bundesministeriums für Bildung und Forschung - BMBF).

[!\[\]\(b4eeff342f60cc7bcd67d869b4fedca2_img.jpg\) Hochschulaktion für Geflüchtete website](#)

[!\[\]\(4f6bf54ae7e4144a72d78316053e412d_img.jpg\) Database of scholarship offers \(BMBF Stipendienlotse\)](#)

Recognition of foreign educational qualifications

In Germany, **certificates** play an important role for schools, studies or careers. Certificates are used to demonstrate what you have learned and accomplished. Certificates are the decisive prerequisite for getting a job or being admitted to a school or university. So if you have already acquired certificates abroad at school, in training or in a course of study, you should make every effort to ensure that these certificates are **recognised** in Germany. This means that your credentials will be used to check what you are qualified for in Germany. Your skills are

“translated”, so to speak. It may be that you no longer have your certificates with you. In this case, you can try to have your professional experience and professional abilities recognised by passing some tests.

Advisory Board for Recognition

Counselling centre for the regions of Osnabrück and Vechta

Mira Blümke

☎ [0541/6929622](tel:0541/6929622)

@bluemke@bus-gmbh.de

Lena Gottschlich

☎ [0541/6929633](tel:0541/6929633)

@gottschlich@bus-gmbh.de

Katharina Loose

☎ [0541/6929630](tel:0541/6929630)

@loose@bus-gmbh.de

Branka Zivotic

☎ [0541/6929623](tel:0541/6929623)

@zivotic@bus-gmbh.de

💡 If you want to study or work as a researcher, please contact a university to get your diploma recognised.

Family

Parent-school cooperation

Parents often receive letters from the school that their children bring home. It is important that you read this information. If you do not understand the letters, ask for help, for example, at the [office of administrative affairs](#).

Parent-teacher conferences are held regularly at the school.

All parents meet together with the class teachers and talk about what is important in the current school year and which activities are being planned.

It is important that you go to these meetings as you will receive important information there.

You will be helping your child, and also the class teachers.

If you do not yet speak good German, then you can bring a friend or a relative to translate, or you can ask at the school whether they can organise a translator. The school can contact the [Social Integration Office](#) of the community of Artland, which will look for a suitable interpreter in the volunteer interpreter pool.

Another important date is the parent-teacher day. This will take place twice a year. Here, you will meet your child's teachers. You can talk about what your child is good at, and where they need help.

It is important that you go to this meeting as it is important place to exchange information. You can thus help your child to have as few problems as possible in the school.

If you do not yet speak good German, then you can bring a friend or a relative to translate, or

you can ask at the school whether they can organise a translator. The school can contact the [Social Integration Office](#) of the community of Artland, which will look for a suitable interpreter in the volunteer interpreter pool.

Education and Participation Package (BuT; Bildungs- und Teilhabepaket)

The education and participation package supports children, youth and young adults.

Who is entitled to BuT?

Children from families receiving the following benefits have a legal right to participation and educational support:

- SGB II (German Social Code II) – Jobcenter
- SGB XII (German Social Code XII) – Sozialamt (Social Welfare Office)
- Wohngeld (Housing Allowance) – Sozialamt (Social Welfare Office)
- Kinderzuschlag (Child Benefit Supplement) – Familienkasse (Family Benefits Office)
- Leistungen nach dem Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz (AsylbIG) (Benefits according to the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act) – Sozialamt (Social Welfare Office)

What services are included in the education and participation package (Bildungs- und Teilhabepaket)?

- One-day school and kindergarten excursions
- School trips lasting several days: necessary expenses (e.g. train ticket) except pocket money and personal equipment (e.g. rubber boots)
- personal school equipment:
Pupils receive 100 euros each year on August 1 and 50 euros on February 1. This money is used to buy schoolbags, sports equipment, writing, calculating and drawing materials, for example.
Be sure to keep all bills, as you may have to hand them in to the Jobcenter or Sozialamt (Social Welfare Office) later!
- School transport
Travel expenses to the nearest school are reimbursed, usually the cost of public transport.
- Nachhilfe (after-school learning support):
If a student has poor grades and the educational objective is at risk, an application for learning support can be made. This must be confirmed by the school. School offers come first.
- Subsidy for common lunches
- Participation in social and cultural life:
These include, for example, activities in the fields of sport, games, culture and teaching of artistic subjects (for example, music lessons). The budget is 15 euros per month.

How does it work?

The application for benefits to secure subsistence under SGB II at the Jobcenter includes the application for education and participation benefits.

A separate application is only necessary for learning support.

Families who receive benefits under SGB XII, housing allowance or child benefit supplement apply for BuT benefits at the Sozialamt (Social Welfare Office) in their [city or municipality](#).

Families who receive asylum seeker benefits can also apply to the Social Welfare Office for education and participation benefits in their [city or community](#).

Note: For children between the ages of 7 and 14 years who receive benefits according to SGB II, SGB XII, AsylbLG, the lump sums for personal school needs are paid automatically.

You can get the application forms from the relevant [Job Centre](#), [Social Welfare Office](#) or [here](#).

Schools

In the community of Artland you will find excellent school infrastructure for your children. Six Grundschulen, one Gymnasium, one Förderschule, one Oberschule and two music schools.

Grundschulen (primary schools)

Grundschule Badbergen

📍 [Jahnstraße 10, 49635 Badbergen](#)

☎ [05433/535](#)

@ info@gs-badbergen.de

🌐 www.gs-badbergen.de

Grundschule Menslage

📍 [Spiekstraße 20, 49637 Menslage](#)

☎ [05437/1221](#)

@ info@grundschule-menslage.de

🌐 <https://wordpress.nibis.de/gsmenslage>

Grundschule Nortrup

📍 [Schulstraße 4, 49638 Nortrup](#)

☎ [05436/1033](#)

@ info@grundschule-nortrup.de

🌐 <http://grundschule-nortrup.de/>

Grundschule Am Langen Esch

📍 [Am Langen Esch 10, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

☎ [05431/902719](#)

@ grundschule@gs-am-langen-esch.de

🌐 <http://www.gsale.de/>

Grundschule Hengelage

📍 [Schulstraße 11 A, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

☎ [05431/2144](#)

@ info@gs-hengelage.de

🌐 <http://www.gs-hengelage.de/>

Grundschule Neustadt

📍 [Gänseweg 1, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

☎ [05431/7329](#)


@ info@gs-neustadt-quakenbrueck.de

 <https://www.gs-neustadt-quakenbrueck.de/>


Secondary schools

Artland Gymnasium Quakenbrück

 [Am Deich 18, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)


 [05431/18090](tel:0543118090)

 sekretariat@artland-gym.de

 <https://www.artland-gymnasium.de/wordpress/>

Oberschule Artland

 [Jahnstraße 24, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

 [05431/922900](tel:05431922900)


 info@obs-artland.de

 <https://www.obs-artland.de/>

Förderschule (special needs school)

Hasetalschule (Förderschule with focus on "learning" and "mental development")

 [Prof.-von-Klitzing-Straße 3, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)


 [05431/2424](tel:054312424)


 hasetalschule@t-online.de


 <https://www.hasetalschule.de/>

Music school

Kreismusikschule Osnabrück community of Artland regional branch

 [Lange Straße 45, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)


 [05431/4057](tel:054314057)


 [0541/5012190](tel:05415012190)

 kreismusikschule@lkos.de

 <https://www.kreismusikschule-osnabrueck.de/>

Musikschule der Burgmannskapelle Quakenbrück

 [Danziger Straße 4, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

 [0160/93510530](tel:016093510530)

 burgmannskapelle@gmail.com

 www.burgmannskapelle.de

Special educational needs

Special educational support in Lower Saxony takes place in Förderschulen and in all other general education schools.

The Förderschulen are divided according to the following focal points:

- Emotional and social development,
- Mental development
- Hearing (hard of hearing, deaf),

- Physical and motor development
- Learning,
- Sight (visually impaired, blind),
- Language,
- Hearing/sight (deafblind).

The Förderschule also supports integration into mainstream schools as a Support Centre (Förderzentrum) through education and teaching, counselling, therapy, care and support. This is done by deploying special school teachers, in individual cases also pedagogical staff or support staff. The scope and duration of the assignment depend on the special educational needs. As part of the work in the Support Centre (Förderzentrum), teachers are deployed in basic special needs education, in integration classes, in the mobile service or in a cooperation class in the general school.

Source: Lower Saxony service portal (portal network of the federal and state governments)

Pregnancy and childbirth

Pregnancy and birth

Pregnant women in Germany enjoy special protection and are entitled to advice, medical care and support with obtaining baby products. If you are pregnant, the first step is to visit a gynaecologist (women's doctor). The doctor will carry out a medical check-up. You will then receive a maternity card. The maternity card is a document with important information about your pregnancy, your health, and your child's health. Always take your maternity card with you in case of emergencies.

Midwife

Midwives are there to support women and their families from the beginning of pregnancy up until the end of breastfeeding. Midwives provide counselling during pregnancy and give professional advice, help with pregnancy complaints and prepare for the birth.

During the birth, she conveys security and confidence to the woman giving birth. She is a companion and support during childbirth.

Childbirth and aftercare

After the birth, further medical care and support by a midwife is possible. She gives practical guidance in caring for the child, gives advice to breastfeeding mothers and provides help with uncertainties in dealing with the child. Postnatal exercise, baby massage, etc. are often offered by midwives.

Home visits by the midwife are offered free of charge during pregnancy and after delivery from hospital up to 8 weeks after birth. As a rule, the health insurance funds cover the following pre- and aftercare services:

- Prenatal care
- Help with pregnancy discomforts

- Preparation for giving birth
- Pregnancy exercises
- Postpartum care at home
- Postnatal exercise
- Breastfeeding counselling until the end of the breastfeeding period
- Advice on dietary changes up to 9 months of age

Midwives in the community and surrounding area:

Midwives can be contacted via the various hospitals and delivery rooms:

[Marienhospital](#), Osnabrück: ☎ [05413264202](tel:05413264202)

[Klinikum Osnabrück](#): ☎ [05414056801](tel:05414056801)

[St. Marienhospital](#), Vechta: ☎ [04441991720](tel:04441991720)

[Marienhospital](#), Ankum-Bersenbrück: ☎ [054628376](tel:054628376)

or from

Midwifery practice Wiesengrund - Ingeborg Wittchen

📍 [Wiesengrund 6, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

☎ [05431902346](tel:05431902346)

You can get an up-to-date list of midwives in the area of the community at the advice centres for pregnant women and can be found at:

[Midwife Centre Osnabrück](#)

Midwife consultation **Marienhospital Osnabrück**:

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 13:00 to 15:00

Registration required.

You can find the registration form [here](#).

You can register for the midwife consultation at **Klinikum Osnabrück** by telephone at ☎ [05414059100](tel:05414059100).

Advice centres for pregnant women in the Artland community of Artland

The counselling centres advise you on questions and conflicts related to your pregnancy. They inform you about legal claims (e.g. maternity leave, parental leave, maintenance, ALG II) and help you to enforce them. They arrange financial assistance (e.g. Federal Foundation "Mother and Child") and provide information on prenatal diagnostics (e.g. amniocentesis, ultrasound). They advise in connection with fertility treatment and also accompany you when you are grieving for your baby.

Unwanted pregnancies counselling - Evelin Müller-Goldbeck

📍 [Vehser Str. 2, 49635 Badbergen](#)

☎ [0543395000](tel:0543395000)

Pregnancy counselling for unwanted pregnancies - Donum-vitae e.V.

📍 [Hasestr. 5, 495953 Bersenbrück](#)

☎ [05439607784](tel:05439607784)

Pregnancy counselling - Sozialdienst katholischer Frauen (SKF)

📍 [Bürgermeister-Kreke-Straße 3, 49593 Bersenbrück](#)

☎ [054391773](#) and [054391645](#)

Pregnancy depression support group - Ankum Family Centre

📍 [Georg-Siemer-Str. 4, 49577 Ankum](#)

☎ [054628606](#)

Registration at the Registry Office

New-born babies must be reported to the Registry Office. The maternity hospital takes care of reporting the birth to the [Registry Office](#) at your local town hall. There, upon presenting your ID and the birth certificate from the clinic, you will receive either the Geburtsurkunde (birth certificate) or an extract from the Geburtenregister (birth register) for your child. If you have a marriage certificate, bring it with you too.

You will receive a Geburtsurkunde (birth certificate) for your child if you can prove your identity, i.e. you are in possession of your passport from your home country or you possess another document indicating civil status such as your birth certificate or an extract from the family register.

If you are not in possession of these documents and you can therefore not prove your identity, you will receive an extract from the birth register. You can also request Kindergeld (child benefits), Elterngeld (parental allowance) and additional services with the extract from the birth register.

Paternity declaration

If the parents are married, the father and mother are registered as the parents. If the parents are not married, the father must make a paternity declaration at the Standesamt (Registry Office) or the Jugendamt (Youth Welfare Office). The mother of the child must agree with the paternity declaration.

The paternity declaration gives the father both rights and obligations: For example, the father may be obliged to pay child support, which means that he must pay financial support to ensure the child's care. In return, he has the right to interact with the child. This is particularly important if the parents of the child do not live together or if they separate before the birth.

If you have any questions about the alimony or access rights, please contact the [Jugendamt \(Youth Welfare Office\)](#).

Paediatrician



There are ten screening tests (U1-U9 and J1). Until the age of 6, children are regularly examined and supported in their development. The U1 (examination after birth) and U2 examinations usually take place in the clinic. For further examinations, you must make an appointment with your children's doctor (paediatrician).



Contacts



Dipl. med. Andreas Fink

📍 [Bahnhofstr. 37, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

☎ [05431/907790](#)

Dr. med Ansgar Möller
 [Bersenbrücker Str. 7, 49577 Ankum](#)
 [05462/432](#)

Dr. med Rüdiger Abel
 [Langenstr. 15, 49624 Lönigen](#)
 [05432/3535](#)

Dr Tobias Revermann
 [Wilhelmstr. 1, 49632 Essen Oldg.](#)
 [05434/9245036](#)

Day-care centre/ Kindergarten

Day-care centre

Once your child is 1 year old and up until they enter primary school, they have the legal right to attend a children's day-care centre (crèche) or receive childcare at another type of day-care facility. Here your child can learn German through play, discover new things and make friends with children their own age. Both crèches and day-care facilities are important and good preparation for kindergarten. To find a place, ask at your local town hall in the [Family Services Office](#).

You can find information on children's day-care [here](#) in a short video in various languages.

Kindergarten

Children aged at least 3 and up to school entrance age are looked after in nursery school (kindergarten). There is also a legal right here, meaning your child must receive a place. At the kindergarten, your child will learn German and be nurtured in an age-appropriate way through games with children of the same age. Kindergarten is very important and helps children be well-prepared for school. To find a place, ask at your local town hall in the [Family Services Office](#).

A parental contribution is charged for care in day care centres. On application, the parental contribution can be paid in full or in part if the burden is unreasonable for the parents.

Attendance at a day care centre is usually free of charge for children over the age of three.

Compulsory schooling

In the context of compulsory school attendance, guardians and custodians (usually the parents) bear a great responsibility. All children who will turn 6 by 30 September of the year of enrolment are of compulsory school age. Compulsory schooling ends in principle after 12 years. In exceptional cases, compulsory schooling may end after 10 years of school attendance at the earliest, whereby at least one year must be completed at a Berufsbildende Schule.

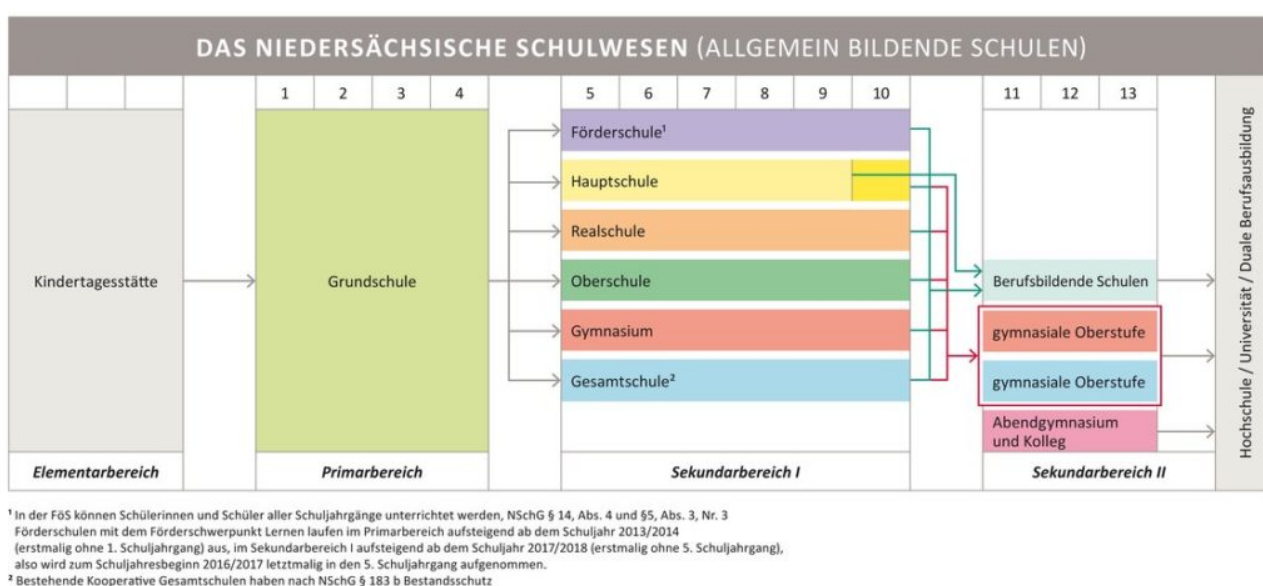
The school regulations of the respective schools stipulate that parents and guardians must excuse their children in writing in case of illness. Giving notice of absence by telephone is not

sufficient. The deadline for receipt of written excuses is usually 3 working days. In case of prolonged illness, it is advisable to obtain a doctor's certified excuse. In justified individual cases, the school may order a medical certificate.

If a pupil fails to attend general or vocational school without being excused, the school must inform the [Youth Welfare Office \(Jugendamt\)](#) and the Fine Office (Bußgeldstelle). The Youth Welfare Office (Jugendamt) provides support options for this. In addition, juveniles over the age of 14 and their legal guardians and custodians are subject to a fine

You can find multi-language publications from the Niedersächsisches Kultusministerium (Lower Saxony Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs) [here](#).

School System



Source: [MK Niedersachsen](#)

Grundschule (primary school)

Grundschule attendance usually lasts 4 years. When your child is 6 years old, register your child at a Grundschule (primary school) near your residence.

After attending Grundschule, school pupils change to one of the following schools depending on their level of achievement and the desires of their parents:

Hauptschule (basic secondary school)

Pupils will receive a basic education in the Hauptschule (basic secondary school). They will learn to work independently and get to know professions.

They will also receive career guidance. The Hauptschule lasts for 5 or 6 years.

Realschule (standard secondary school)

Pupils will receive an extended general education in the Realschule (standard secondary school). They will learn even more in all subjects than the basic education. The schoolchildren will learn professions and study programmes and will receive career guidance.

The Realschule lasts 6 years.

Gymnasium (grammar school)

Pupils will receive a comprehensive general education in the Gymnasium (grammar school). The Gymnasium will primarily prepare pupils for a Studium (University studies). At a Gymnasium, pupils will take the Abitur exam after the 13th class.

Oberschule

In the Oberschule (specialised secondary school), high achieving and underachieving pupils will learn together.

All pupils will remain together in the same class for several years in order for them to be able to learn well from each other.

The pupils will be able to learn everything that pupils in the Hauptschule (basic secondary school) and the Realschule (standard secondary school) learn.

There are also Oberschule schools in which education is carried out separated.

There is a Hauptschulzweig (basic secondary school path) and a Realschulzweig (standard secondary school path) there.

Some Oberschule schools also have a Gymnasialzweig (grammar school path).

Gesamtschule

There are Integrierte Gesamtschule (IGS) integrated schools and Kooperative Gesamtschule (KGS) cooperative schools.

In the Gesamtschule, high achieving and underachieving pupils will learn together.

All pupils will remain together in the same class for several years in order for them to be able to learn well from each other.

The pupils can learn everything here, what you learn in the other types of school.

They can also complete an Abitur exam.

You can find more information about the school system in Lower Saxony in different languages [here](#).

School cancellation

Heavy snowfall with snowdrifts, freezing, freezing rain or even a hurricane with unforeseeable dangers for all road users can lead to the cancellation of lessons at all schools in the community of Artland. The decision on whether to cancel classes in extreme weather conditions is made by the districts and independent cities. In principle, there is the possibility of going down to grade 4 or to grade 10. As a rule, however, classes are cancelled at all general and vocational schools.

School transport, which is carried out as far as possible by public transport, nevertheless takes place as far as the transport companies consider it possible. However, it can be assumed that isolated stops outside the main roads will no longer be served. Pupils who have made their way to the bus stop despite school cancellation should therefore wait at least 15 minutes for the bus.

The schools also provide supervision for the pupils who have come to school in the event of a school cancellation. They will not be sent home before the usual school closing time without consulting their parent or guardian. This is especially important for working guardians.

The district administration recommends paying attention to the morning radio announcements on the traffic news from 6.00 a.m. onwards. In addition, there are possibilities to get information on the [internet](#).

In addition, there is a free app called "KatWarn", which displays a corresponding message in case of school cancellation. The app is available for smartphones with Android and iOS and can

be downloaded from the respective app stores.

You can find detailed information here <https://www.katwarn.de/>

Finally, you can also contact the citizens' information office of the District of Osnabrück.

☎ [05415010](tel:05415010)

@info@landkreis-osnabrueck.de

Legal guardians who fear an unreasonable risk to their children on the way to school due to extreme weather conditions may, if no general cancellation of lessons has been ordered, decide for themselves whether or not to send the children to school.

Family benefits

Parental allowance

Family and work are increasingly developing into equal life contents for both parents. Parental allowance and parental leave are intended to help you shape the start of a new phase of life with a child according to your wishes.

The basic parental allowance is paid to parents for up to 14 months after the birth of the child. A parent can claim a minimum of two months and a maximum of twelve months if employment is interrupted during this period or if employment is not performed for more than 32 hours per week per month. Exceptions to these basic reference periods may arise if your child was born at least six, eight, twelve or 16 weeks before the calculated date of birth.

In order to support parents in reconciling family and work as partners, the parental allowance (Elterngeld) was further developed into a Parental Allowance Plus . Parental allowance (Elterngeld) plus enables parents to make the best possible use of parental allowance in combination with part-time work, thus making it easier for them to return to work.

Parents who work part-time early after the birth of their child lose part of their parental allowance (Elterngeld) entitlement by having their part-time income taken into account. Parental allowance (Elterngeld) plus compensates for this by providing longer financial support beyond the child's 14th month of life. One month of basic parental allowance becomes two months of parental allowance (Elterngeld) plus.

In addition, the parental allowance (Elterngeld) will be supplemented by a partnership bonus , which is intended to promote the sharing of family and professional tasks as partners. If both parents work part-time for between 24 and 32 hours per week for two to four consecutive months at the same time, they receive two to four additional months of parental allowance (Elterngeld) plus per parent. These schemes can be used by both cohabiting parents and single parents.

The information sheet accompanies you in filling out the forms and also contains general information. You can find more information and examples of parental allowance (Elterngeld) plus at www.elterngeld-plus.de. You can use the parental allowance (Elterngeld) calculator with planner available there to determine the expected amount yourself.

In principle, anyone who is entitled to parental allowance (Elterngeld):

- has a place of residence or habitual abode in Germany
- lives in a household with their child

- cares for and raises this child themselves
- is not in gainful employment or is not in full employment

The parental allowance (Elterngeld) must be applied for in writing. The application can only be submitted with the birth of the child. Please note that parental allowance (Elterngeld) is only paid retroactively for the three months of the child's life prior to the application. Therefore, apply for parental allowance (Elterngeld) in good time after the birth of your child.

You can apply for parental allowance at the community of Artland

Community of Artland, parental allowance

📍 Markt 2, 49610 Quakenbrück

Contact person for parental allowance:

Ms König

☎ [05431182136](tel:05431182136)

Mr Teichmann

☎ [05431182133](tel:05431182133)

Child benefit

Families with children have to finance the maintenance and education of their children. For this, they need more money than people without children. Child benefits is available to compensate for this additional expense.

Child benefits are applied for at the [Family Benefits Office \(Familienkasse\)](#) and is also paid out by this office.

Entitlement to child benefits

A prerequisite for entitlement to child benefits is that the beneficiary or the entitled person is identified by the tax identification number issued to him or her.

In principle, German nationals receive child benefits if they have their residence or habitual abode in Germany.

Foreign nationals of EU/EEA member states and Switzerland

Foreign nationals from the EU (European Union) and the EEA (European Economic Area) can also receive child benefits. For this, you must have a domicile and habitual residence in Germany. Furthermore, you have to earn money in Germany and be able to prove it.

From the fourth month onwards, there may be a claim to child benefits even without income; however, the requirements of the right of entry and residence in Germany must be met. The Family Benefits Office (Familienkasse) can check this independently of the Bureau for Foreigners (Ausländerbehörde).

Foreign nationals of third countries

Foreign nationals of third countries who reside in Germany and hold a valid settlement permit (Niederlassungserlaubnis) may receive child benefits. Certain other residence permits (Aufenthaltstitel) may also trigger an entitlement to child benefits.

Unappealably recognised refugees and persons entitled to asylum can also receive child benefits.

You can apply for child benefits at the [Family Benefits Office \(Familienkasse\)](#).

Unaccompanied Minor Refugees

Refugees under the age of 18 who have entered Germany **unaccompanied** are called **unbegleitete minderjährige Ausländer = umA**. These youths are reported to the Youth Welfare Office (Jugendamt). The Youth Welfare Office talks to the young people and determines their age. The decision on how old the child is determines whether the Youth Welfare Office will take care of the underage person (younger than 18) and place them in special accommodation for young people ("custody"). If the Youth Welfare Office thinks the person is an adult (over age 18), the person will receive a notice of refusal and be treated as an adult. The Youth Welfare Office will bring an interpreter to the appointment.

💡 If you are not yet 18 years old on your proof of arrival, but the Youth Welfare Office gives you a rejection notice, the Youth Welfare Office must enter a new date of birth on the decision. Only then can you have your documents changed by the Immigration Office and the Social Welfare Office.

Some minors (persons under the age of 18) enter the country without their parents, but **with relatives** (for example with an uncle or aunt, cousins or older siblings). Your accommodation support will report this to the Youth Welfare Office after your arrival. The Youth Welfare Office talks to the minor and the adult relatives and checks whether the minors can stay there. In addition, the Youth Welfare Office will decide whether a guardian is to be appointed. The Youth Welfare Office will bring an interpreter with it to the interview.

💡 Adult relatives can also go to the Family Court to apply to be the child's official guardian. The relative(s) with the guardianship take full responsibility for the minor(s) in place of the parents.

Health

The German healthcare system

The German healthcare system

There are many institutions in Germany that are part of the healthcare system. The healthcare system comprises three different areas:

Out-patient medical treatment by doctors and pharmacies ("out-patient" means: the patient goes home once they have received treatment)

In-patient medical treatment by way of acute medical care in hospitals ("in-patient" means: the patient remains in hospital for their treatment)

Public health service by means of the preventative health offers provided by the Health Department ("preventative" means: offers that aim to preserve health and avoid occurrences of illness)

Both out-patient and in-patient medical care involve administering medical treatment to people suffering from illness. Every person can decide for themselves to which doctor or medical institution they would like to go (freedom of choice).

The public health service (health service for the District and City of Osnabrück) fulfils preventive tasks (for example: information and counselling on health). The aim is to ensure that all citizens in the district enjoy a healthy life. You can find more information about the Health Department [here](#).

💡 Good to know:

Hospitals treat those individuals who are suffering from acute illness or who have life-threatening injuries. If a person has sustained lighter injuries or an illness which does not constitute an emergency, it is best to go to a doctor's surgery. You will be sure to receive excellent assistance there!

You need a doctor at night or at the weekend – but it is not an emergency? Then you can call this number to find out which doctor's surgery is currently open:

On-call medical services

only evenings and weekends

☎ [116 117](tel:116117)

Emergency Dental Service

only evenings and weekends

🌐 www.zahnarzt-notdienst.de

Apothekennotdienst (emergency pharmacy service)

You can find a list of emergency pharmacies [here](#):

0800 00 22 8 33 (free of charge)

from your mobile phone: 22 8 33 (max. 69 cent/min.)

The German healthcare system in 14 languages

In the brochure entitled "[Gesundheit für alle – Ein Wegweiser durch das deutsche Gesundheitswesen](#)" ("Health for all – A guide to the German healthcare system") you will find all the important information in 14 languages.

Visiting a doctor

Family doctors and specialist doctors

If you are ill, see your family doctor. You can choose your own doctor. The opening hours are decided by the doctors themselves. So you need to make an appointment if you need to see a family doctor.

Hausärzte und Hausärztinnen führen wichtige Untersuchungen durch und sind Ihre erste Kontaktstelle bei Krankheiten. Sie entscheiden auch über notwendige Medikamente und ob eine fachärztliche Untersuchung notwendig ist.

If necessary, your family doctor will refer you to a specialist who can carry out specific tests.

Make an appointment to see a doctor. If you cannot go to the appointment: Don't forget to call and cancel the appointment.

If you have an eye injury, go directly to an [ophthalmologist](#).

If you have toothache, go to the dentist.
Children are treated by a paediatrician.

**If the office is closed, the medical on-call service will help you
(Phone [116 117](tel:116117)).**

Paediatricians

Children are usually examined by paediatricians (specialist doctors for children). Regular check-ups and vaccinations by paediatricians are important for the health of every child. The required preventative check-ups are called “U check-ups” and always take place at a certain time and date; they are free of charge. Please ask a paediatrician for information for yourself and your child about the legally regulated and required U check-ups.

Dentists

If you have toothache, you should go to the dentist.

Ophthalmologists

If you have problems with your eyes, you can go to an ophthalmologist. Ophthalmologists take care of all diseases that affect the eyes.

Gynaecologists

It is important for women to be regularly examined by a gynaecologist. This helps detect illnesses early enough to treat them. This is called screening. You can also discuss contraception there.

💡 If you need help finding a suitable doctor, ask your support network or your accommodation service.

💡 If you are an asylum seeker and need to see a doctor, you will receive a treatment certificate from the Social Welfare Office . This means your visit to the doctor will be free of charge.

💡 If an operation is necessary and it is **not** an emergency, the Social Welfare Office must approve the hospital stay in advance. Your doctor will provide you with a medical certificate. Only medically necessary interventions can be assumed.

Social Welfare Office (Sozialamt)

Mr Hackmann

Asylum seeker benefits

📍 [Markt 2, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

☎ [05431/182135](tel:05431182135)

@ hackmann@artland.de


Medication and pharmacies/chemists

If you need medicine, you will get a prescription from your doctor. You can get your medication with this prescription at any pharmacy. Chemist's shops are usually open from Monday to Saturday. The opening times vary according to each chemist. If you need medication urgently at

night or on weekends, you will find a sign at every chemist's shop with the name and address of the chemist's shop that is available for emergency service. You can also find this information on the Internet.

Search for emergency chemist's shop services

 www.aponet.de

 As an asylum seeker you can get lots of medication free of charge. Ask your doctor about it. If you do not have a prescription, you will always have to pay for the medication.

Emergency numbers – SOS


An emergency is an acute threat to health. Only contact the emergency medical services or rescue services if there is an emergency or acute health risk.

Emergency contacts

Police  [110](tel:110)

Fire brigade, ambulance and ambulance service  [112](tel:112)


Ambulance, emergency doctor  [112](tel:112)


 Emergency numbers always work on mobile phones, even with pre-paid cards without credit/money!

Important information for an emergency call

- **Who** is calling (your name)?
- **Where** did it happen (address)?
- **What** has happened?
- **How many** injured or sick are there?
- **What kind** of illnesses or injuries are there?
- **Wait** for questions!

Stay calm. Speak slowly and clearly so that people understand you better. Do not end the conversation. The emergency call centre / the police will end the call when all important information has been transmitted.

 Do not forget your arrival certificate/ID when you go to the hospital! If you are already registered with a health insurance company, bring your insurance card with you.

 You can only go to the hospital without a medical treatment certificate if it is an emergency. At the hospital, you must show your arrival certificate/ID in order to prove that you are an asylum seeker and that the costs are covered by the Social Welfare Office.

Health Insurance

Every person in Germany must have health insurance.

Statutory or private health insurance?

You have the option of taking statutory or private health insurance. The majority of people choose a statutory health insurance policy – unless they earn above a certain amount. Health

insurance is paid by both the employee and the employer. In order to qualify for private health insurance, a person must meet certain criteria (e.g. a predefined gross income threshold).

Health insurance

A health insurance policy is taken out with a health insurer. There are many different health insurance providers in Germany. Every person has the right to choose their health insurer. [Here](#), you will find an overview of the health insurance providers in Germany.

Insurance card

You will receive your health insurance card from your health insurance provider. A health insurance card from a insurance provider permits you to receive medical treatment throughout Germany. On the rear side of card is also the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). With this, you are well protected in all EU countries as well as many other European countries and even some non-European states.

Notice:

Remember to take your insurance card with you if you are being treated by doctors, in hospitals or by recognised therapists.

More information available in 40 languages

You can find more information on health insurance in Germany at www.krankenkassenzentrale.de/wiki/international. The information is available in 40 languages!

Note for asylum applicants

There are different rules for asylum seekers. For more information, [click here](#).

Preventative offers

Most health insurance providers cover the costs of preventative offers taken up by their members. Preventative offers are intended to help you to maintain and care for your health. The idea is to avoid illnesses and health problems, reducing the risk of becoming ill, or delaying the onset of illness. For this reason, most health insurance providers cover at least a portion of the costs of preventative offers, or cover all of the costs involved. Preventative offers can include yoga classes, back training, nutrition courses and much more.

Make the best of preventative offers and ask you health insurance provider about the possibilities! This way, you can protect and maintain your health.

You can find more information [here](#).

Counselling centres and assistance services

Helpline for women experiencing violence

 [08000116016](tel:08000116016)

 www.hilfetelefon.de

The "Gewalt gegen Frauen" (Violence against women) helpline provides counselling for affected women everywhere in Germany. It provides information and, if needed, can put you in contact with suitable support organisations in your area. The (female) counsellors on this helpline provide advice for all forms of violence against women. Online counselling is also available on the website. All conversations are confidential and can be anonymous if you wish. You will not

be asked to provide any personal information, and any information you share will not be recorded. This applies to both the telephone helpline and the website. Counselling is available in many languages with the help of interpreters. If you have a hearing impairment, you can request an interpreter (free of cost) through the website. The conversation with the helpline counsellor will then be translated into German sign language or writing.

Der Familienratgeber (The Family Counsellor)

 www.familienratgeber.de

The Familienratgeber (family counsellor) website of Aktion Mensch offers information and addresses for people with disabilities and their families. People with disabilities and their families can find important information about living with disabilities in simple and easy German on the website: From school, to work, leisure, accessibility, rights, housing, counselling, health and long-term care insurance and much more.

Daily Life

Information

Are you new to Germany? Moving to a foreign country involves many questions and a lot of work. Everyday life (or some German ways of life) must seem unfamiliar to many refugees and immigrants. To make it a little easier for you to navigate everyday life, here are a few practical tips.

Mobility

School transport

School transport means that pupils are brought to school. Costs cannot be covered for all pupils. Normally, parents have to pay for it. You can find out whether the costs can be covered for your children by contacting the community of Artland.

The providers of school transport decide on their own responsibility how to fulfil this obligation of transport or reimbursement. In doing so, they can determine both the mode of transport (school buses, public transport) and the minimum distance between home and school. This is used in different ways; as a rule, distances are set between about 2 and 5 km, depending on age and local conditions.

Contact:

Community of Artland



[Markt 1 49610 Quakenbrück](#)
@info@artland.de

Bus, train and bicycle

All places in your new city/town and the surrounding areas can be easily reached by public transport. A healthy, inexpensive and environmentally friendly alternative to get from A to B is a bicycle.

Public transport

Public transport is available to you so you can make your way around the community of Artland and District of Osnabrück. These are, for example, the [Nord-West-Bahn](#) and the [Verkehrsgemeinschaft Osnabrück](#) (VOS).

Travelling without a ticket is punishable by a fine! A valid ticket is required for every trip. Otherwise you will pay a large penalty.

Bicycles

If you know that you will be living in the community of Artland for a longer period, it is worth buying a bike. This is cheaper than travelling with public transport.

💡 Important road rules for cyclists (excerpt):

- Always ride on the right-hand side of the road
- Do not ride next to each other, but one behind the other
- If there is a cycle path, you must ride on the cycle path (always on the right side of the road in the direction of travel).
- Only children up to the age of 11 are allowed to cycle along the walkways
- Using a mobile phone on a bicycle is prohibited.

💡 Purchase and repairs: When you buy your bike, make sure that it is equipped as follows and, therefore, safe to ride. Otherwise, you will have to pay a fine when subject to a police check.

- Front and rear lights
- Front and rear reflectors
- Reflectors in the spokes (2 per wheel)
- Reflectors on the pedals
- Bell
- Two independent brakes

Driving licences and cars

The Führerschein (driving licence)

Everyone needs an international driving licence or a national driving licence with a translation of the document made by an officially certified translator in order to drive a car in Germany. This regulation does not apply to EU citizens.

1. Have a foreign driving licence transcribed

Do you already have a driving licence from your home country?

With a foreign driving licence (not EU/EEC), you may in general drive a vehicle for half a year after taking residency in Germany.

After that, you must have your foreign driving licence converted.

That means that you must retake the theoretical and practical exams once more.

Find more information about this at the Führerscheinstelle (Driving Licence Office) of the [district](#).

Generally speaking, if an EU citizen has a driving licence from another country for a car, it is recognised. You can have your driving licence converted voluntarily, without having to pass the theoretical and practical test again. These regulations do not apply for the driving licence for lorries or buses. Here, you will have to have the driving licence converted after a deadline has expired.

2. Retaking your driving licence

If you want to drive in Germany and do not have a recognised driving licence, you need to attend a driving school. There you will take theoretical and practical classes to learn the traffic regulations in Germany and how to drive a car.

The driving lessons and driving tests are subject to a fee. Check the costs with your driving school before you start!

You can obtain further information and the application forms from the driving school or [Führerscheinstelle \(Driving Licence Office\)](#).

Buying a car

If you have bought a car, then you must register it at the Kfz-Zulassungsstelle (vehicle registration centre) .

You will need for this:

- Personal identification, passport or Aufenthaltstitel (residence permit)
- The vehicle's registration book
- Zulassungsbescheinigung Part II (Registration certificate part II)
- SEPA direct debit mandate for the vehicle duty
- Vehicle insurance

The Citizens' Advice Bureau of the community of Artland is responsible for this. Appointments can be booked online [here](#).

■ Everyone who owns a vehicle and wants to drive (the vehicle owner) in Germany must have vehicle insurance. The car is not licenced without insurance. In this way any damage that you cause to other vehicles or persons will be insured. This also applies to motorbikes.

Information in different languages can be found here:

[Make it in Germany](#)
[Handbook Germany](#)

Insurance

In Germany, anyone who causes damage to a third party is liable by law to pay compensation – even if it happened by accident. This applies to personal injury, damage to property and financial losses of a private nature – if you cause a traffic accident, for example, or your child accidentally breaks a window while playing with a ball.

You can take out a personal liability insurance policy that pays for these damages for you and your family. You do not need to take out a personal liability insurance policy, but it is the most important private insurance and is highly recommended. In the event of any damage, you may be liable for high costs otherwise. Many tenants wish that they had a private personal liability insurance.

You can get more information on insurance from the [Consumer Advice Centre](#).

Broadcasting fees

Germany has independent radio, television and online services from ARD, ZDF and Deutschlandradio. They report in a way that is free from economic and political influences. For this, all people pay money together. This is called “broadcasting fees”.

According to the law: In Germany, a broadcast licence fee must be paid for each flat. However, only one person per flat has to pay the broadcast licence fee. This costs €18.36 per month and must be paid to the Fee Services department (Beitragsservice) of ARD, ZDF and Deutschlandradio. You can find more information on the [broadcast licence fee website](#) (also in English, French, Arabic, Mandarin, Spanish, Ukrainian and Russian).

Some people can be exempted from this payment. For example, if you receive benefits under the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act or other social benefits. An application must be submitted for exemption from the broadcasting fee.

You can find the application for an exemption [here](#).

Internet

Public, free Wi-Fi hotspots in the community of Artland

Free Wi-Fi is available in several locations in public areas, for example in inner city areas, libraries, restaurants or media companies. In these places, you can surf the Internet with your own device.

In Quakenbrück, there is free Wi-Fi on the market square.

Mobile internet

For mobile internet via your mobile phone, you need a contract or a prepaid card.

Note: Be cautious with [mobile phone contracts](#). A contract that you can always cancel is better than a contract that is valid for a long time (for example 2 years).

If you have any questions about mobile phone contracts, you can turn to the following bodies: Your [community](#), the [Migration Counselling Centre](#) or the [Youth Migration Service](#).

Private Wi-Fi

You can conclude a contract for Wi-Fi for your flat yourself. Talk to your landlord before entering into a contract, ask whether Wi-Fi is technically possible and how you can give the technician access to the building.

Information for asylum applicants

As an asylum applicant in Germany, you unfortunately have no legal right to internet access (Wi-Fi) in your accommodation. There is therefore usually no Internet access (Wi-Fi) in the accommodation facilities. If there is a telephone connection in the accommodation, it is possible that you can sign up for a Wi-Fi contract yourself.

Bank account

A current account (Girokonto) is an account for people who want to make payments via a bank. Your money is available in your current account (Girokonto) at any time. Make sure you have enough money in your account for all withdrawals and payments.


With a current account (Girokonto), you can:


- transfer money
- Receive cashless payments (disbursements from agencies/authorities/social benefits are often cashless, meaning they are transferred directly to a personal current account (Girokonto))
- set up standing orders
- Use direct debit services
- Cash cheques
- Make cashless payments with the EC/Maestro card
- withdraw money at the bank counter or an ATM
- print your bank statements

Opening an account

Decide which bank you want to open an account with. Make an appointment to open the account. Please bring one of your identity documents with you: "Ankunftsnachweis" (proof of arrival), "Aufenthaltsbewilligung" (residence permit), identity card. If there is no current address on the identification document, please also bring a certificate of registration or a comparable document.

- Once the account has been opened, you will receive an EC card with a four-digit PIN code. Sign the back of the EC card and memorise your PIN code. You will need the PIN code for cashless payments and to withdraw money from ATMs. **Make sure you keep your card and your PIN code separate!**
- If you wish to withdraw cash, it is best to use the ATM of the bank where you have your account. Withdrawals are then free of charge. If the PIN code is entered incorrectly three times at the ATM, the EC card is withdrawn and blocked. In this case you must ask your bank.
- If you lose your EC card or it is stolen, have it blocked immediately. Tell them your sort code and your account number. Then ask your bank for a new EC card.

 [116116](tel:116116)

 Around the clock.

Different banks offer current accounts with different conditions. Find out exactly how much a Girokonto costs each month and what services the bank offers.

If you do not speak German or English, please bring an interpreter with you.

Contracts and mobile phones

Mobile phones

There are basically two different mobile phone contracts in Germany: Prepaid contracts and fixed-term contracts. The prepaid contract does not have a fixed contract term; a fixed-term contract has a minimum contract term. This contract is automatically renewed if you do not cancel. To terminate a fixed-term contract, a written timely notice of termination is required. Unlike fixed-term contracts, prepaid contracts have no monthly fee.

10 important questions for the conclusion of a contract:

- What is the basic fee? Does the fee increase after a certain period?
- Is there a minimum monthly fee?
- How long is the contract period (e.g. 12 or 24 months)?
- When do I have to cancel if I do not want to extend the contract?
- How much does a minute cost (different/own network)?
- What are the costs for buying a mobile phone with and without a contract?
- How much does Internet access cost?
- How much does it cost to call abroad?

Contracts

In Germany, some situations where you need to sign a contract are: starting a new job, moving into a new home, buying a car or mobile phone, or joining a gym. Always pay close attention to what the contract says: How is the total price calculated? Are there additional monthly fees besides a one-off payment? Contracts are binding and have to be followed. You can only terminate a contract within the notice period stated. If I don't cancel the contract, it may automatically renew.

Children and adolescents under the age of 18 cannot conclude any contracts. It is essential to make sure that your children cannot access your account data.

If you are not sure if you can pay the ongoing costs or whether you have understood everything correctly, do not sign the contract!

Once you sign the contract, it is legally binding. Therefore, it is always good to take the time to read a contract carefully and to make sure you are completely sure what everything means before you sign it.

Especially important:

Never sign anything you have not understood or cannot read. Otherwise, you may sign a contract or agreement that requires you to pay something. It is sometimes very difficult to undo

this. Always check and compare several offers and decide at your leisure.

Do not let anyone push you for a signature. If you are placed under pressure then the salesperson is not being honest.

Do not conclude any contracts on the telephone, on the street, in front of a supermarket or at the door of your house!

Never give anyone your bank information over the telephone!

You can also find additional information on the website of the [Verbraucherzentrale \(Consumer Advice Centre\)](#).

Waste disposal

Everything at a glance!

Proper separation and disposal is not that difficult. [Here](#) you will find an overview of the types of waste and how to dispose of them correctly. You can also use this [link](#) to view the collection calendar for your community or town in the District of Osnabrück.

Residual waste (black bin)

This belongs in the residual waste bin (black bin):

Other normal household waste, e.g. Hoover bags, cigarette butts, sweepings, nappies, hygiene articles, also raw bone, meat or fish waste, cat litter, carpet and wallpaper residues, etc.

Not part of it:

Everything that is compostable or belongs in the yellow bag as packaging. Please dispose of waste containing hazardous substances and electrical appliances via the mobile collection service or take them to one of the recycling centres. Other recyclable materials such as scrap metal, wood scraps etc. can also be handed in here.

Organic waste (brown bin)

This belongs in the organic waste bin:

Exclusively compostable waste such as fruit and vegetable waste, leftover cooked food, garden waste, tea and coffee grounds with filter paper, kitchen paper in small quantities.

Not part of it:

Anything that is not compostable, e.g. plastic waste bags. Please put raw bone, meat or fish waste and cat litter in the residual waste bin.

Larger quantities of green waste can be taken to the [recycling centres for](#) a fee.

Light packaging (yellow bin)

This belongs in the yellow bin:

Empty packaging made of metal or plastic, e.g. empty yoghurt pots, tubes, beverage cartons, foil packaging and empty personal hygiene or cleaning product bottles. Also packaging for snack foods, such as hamburgers or hot dogs.

Not part of it:

Glass, paper and cardboard (please put in the appropriate containers or collections). Also,

residual waste, even if it is made of plastic or metal, such as toys, toothbrushes or screws, etc.

Paper (green bin)

This belongs in the waste paper bin/container:

Paper and cardboard, e.g. newspapers, magazines, cardboard boxes, office paper, etc.

In the District of Osnabrück you can dispose of your waste paper in the green bin.

Not part of it:

Anything that is not pure paper or pure cardboard, including plastic bags or composites such as beverage cartons.

Glass

This belongs in the bottle bank:

Emptied white and coloured glass, e.g. disposable bottles and jars.

Not part of it:

Everything that is not made of pure glass, including ceramics or porcelain (both belong in the residual waste bin).

Hazardous waste and hazardous waste mobile

The hazardous waste mobile is on the road for you in the District of Osnabrück more than 75 times a year - the opportunity for all private households to rummage through cellars, cupboards and garages for problem waste and to hand in the hazardous waste found to the hazardous waste mobile in an environmentally conscious manner and free of charge.

This belongs in the hazardous waste and the hazardous waste mobile

Private waste containing hazardous substances such as household chemicals, old medicines (without packaging), mercury thermometers, rust and antifreeze agents, paints, thinners.

Not part of it:

Commercial waste and large electrical appliances such as cookers, washing machines, dishwashers as well as refrigerators and monitors.

Electronic waste

Everything that has a cable! To dispose of electronic waste, there are several options available to you in the District of Osnabrück. We collect many items from your home free of charge after you have [registered](#) (online or by telephone). In addition, our green spaces and recycling centres also accept quite a bit.

This is part of electronic waste:

Tvs, screens, Pcs, microwaves, hoovers, ovens, dishwashers, refrigerators, washing machines;

Bulky waste

In the district, you can dispose of your bulky goods in two ways: Either you hand it in at one of our AWIGO recycling centres (**subject to a charge**, not possible in Dissen) or we collect it from your home **free of charge**. After registering by telephone or in writing at the [Service Centre](#), you will receive a collection date.

This belongs in the bulky waste collection:

Furniture such as sofas, chairs, cupboards, tables, wooden shelves, bed frames, also mattresses, slatted frames, duvets, bicycles;

Not part of it: Electrical and electronic equipment, commercial waste, household waste in bags, boxes, cartons, objects that are predominantly made of metal, construction waste, doors/windows, sanitary ceramics, car and motorbike parts, old tyres, old textiles, green waste, wallpaper, recyclable materials such as glass, paper/cardboard, packaging waste, harmful substances such as paints, solvents, wooden pallets etc.

Further information on the subject of waste disposal can be found at: www.awigo.de

Living

Housing allowance payments

Housing assistance

“Wohngeld” (housing assistance) serves to economically secure adequate and family-friendly housing. It is paid as a rent subsidy (Mietzuschuss) for tenants or as a property subsidy (Lastenzuschuss) for owner-occupied housing. Every resident has a legal claim to housing assistance if the legal requirements are met.

Whether there is a claim to housing assistance, and if so, how much, essentially depends on three factors,

- The number of household members to be taken into account,
- The amount of the rent or cost to be taken into account and
- The amount of the total income.

Detailed and more extensive information on housing assistance is available on the website of the [community of Artland](#).

You can also download the application for housing assistance on the page of the community of Artland or pick it up in person at the town hall.

Contact person

Ms Mosting

📍 [Markt 2, room 134 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

☎ [05431/182146](tel:05431182146)

@ mosting@artland.de

Mr Teichmann



[Markt 2, room 133 49610 Quakenbrück](#)
[☎05431/182133](tel:05431/182133)
@teichmann@artland.de

Important terms and costs

You can search for a place to live in the local newspapers or online.

You can find an email address or phone number in the ads. You need to call the person and make an appointment to view the accommodation. You will then take a look at it with the landlord or landlady. If you don't speak enough German to do this alone, bring a friend or acquaintance to help you.

Here are some examples of questions to ask while viewing the apartment:

- What does the monthly rent cost?
- How much would the water, electricity, heating and gas cost?
- Does the property use a lot of energy?

💡 After the appointment, you should quickly give the landlord or landlady feedback on whether you want to rent the flat.

If the landlord or landlady wants to rent the flat to you, they should provide you with an overview of the rental costs and additional costs or a rental contract. It must be specified in the rental contract how large the flat is, how high the rent is and what costs the rent comprises.

Important terms and costs

Explanation of important abbreviations in German accommodation ads:

Whg. = Wohnung (flat), App. = Appartement (apartment), WG = Wohngemeinschaft (shared property/flatshare), Zi. = Zimmer (bedroom), ZKB = Zimmer-Küche-Bad (bedroom-kitchen-bathroom), EG = Erdgeschoss (ground floor), 1. OG = "1. Obergeschoss". English: first floor. Wohnfl. = Wohnfläche (living space), EBK = Einbauküche (equipped kitchen), teilmbf. = teilmöbliert (partially furnished), inkl. = inklusive (included); MM = Miete pro Monat (monthly rent), NK = Nebenkosten (additional costs), HK = Heizkosten (heating expenses), Kaut. = Kaut. = Kaut. (deposit)

Rental contract

A promise to accept a flat only becomes binding with a rental contract. The rights and obligations of the landlord and the rights and obligations of the tenant must be clarified in the rental contract. The rental contract will also contain important additional details that you must read through carefully (the invoicing of the heating and operating costs, notice periods, the keeping of animals, subletting and much more).

Read the rental contract carefully before you sign it. Also have the rental contract read through an acquaintance with good German language skills, or obtain professional support, for example from the Mieterschutzbund (tenants protection association). They support tenants with regards to legal questions involving rent.

House regulations

The regulations for living together in the building are described in the house rules. This will include for example quiet times in the house from 10 pm to 8 am, clearing the snow in winter, regular cleaning of the staircase and much more. Read through the regulations in the house rules carefully.

Wohnungsgeberbescheinigung (Landlord confirmation)

Your landlord or landlady must fill out this form. You will need this confirmation for your Ummeldung (changing of your address) in your community, or at the Einwohnermeldeamt (Residents' Registration Office).

You must confirm your address in your new community as quickly as possible, at the latest within two weeks.

Cold rent

The Kaltmiete (cold rent) refers to the costs for the flat without any additional costs such as water, heating, water heating, the caretaker and the Grundsteuer property tax. The Kaltmiete (cold rent) is always less than the Warmmiete (warm rent).

Total rent

The Warmmiete refers to the total costs for the flat, that is the Kaltmiete (cold rent) plus the additional costs. However: Sometimes there are also further costs in addition to the Warmmiete (warm rent), for example electricity, broadcasting fees for radio and television and rubbish disposal.

When looking for a flat, you should always consider whether it is the cold rent or the warm rent that is displayed in the advert. Some adverts for flats may be deceptively cheap if the additional costs are not displayed. You should therefore clarify in advance which costs are included in the rent.

Deposit

The security deposit provides the landlord or landlady with financial security if anything in the flat was to break. The security is frequently 2-3 months of "cold" rent.

At the end of the rental period, the security deposit will be repaid if the flat has been handed over clean and without any defects to the landlady or landlord, or to the next tenant.

If possible, take photographs of the state of the flat when moving in, and when moving out of the flat. You will then be able to demonstrate when moving out which defects were already present when you moved in.

Tenant self-disclosure

The tenant self-disclosure is a type of questionnaire that is requested by the landlady or landlord. The landlady or landlord would like to check in particular if the tenant is in a position to be able to pay the rent. You can draw up the tenant self-disclosure yourself. It contains the following information:

- First and last name
- Birthday
- Current address
- Contact details (telephone and e-mail)
- Current career and employer

- Monthly income
- SCHUFA information

The SCHUFA information provides information about your ability to pay. You can request the SCHUFA information online. Please take care of it early so that it will arrive in time for your flat search.

The free version of the Schufa information is called "[Datenkopie nach Art. 15 DS-GVO](#)". This will be sufficient for the landlord.

Religion

Freedom of religion

The principle of the freedom of religion is in force in Germany. It is guaranteed by the Basic Law. You can practise your faith as you see fit, as long as you do not violate the Basic Law. It is also prohibited to discriminate against people on the basis of their religion, for example when looking for a job. Religious freedom also includes accepting the faith of others. Germany does not have a state church. The state and religion are separate.

This means, for example:

- All people are allowed to freely choose and practice their own religions and beliefs
- Everyone also has the freedom not to be religious – those who do not believe in God are allowed to say so publicly
- People of different religions and faiths may marry among themselves
- Marriage only counts as legally binding if it is entered into at the Register Office (Standesamt). Marriages entered into exclusively within the framework of a religion are not legally binding in Germany.
- Religious laws do not govern the legal system in Germany

Religious Practice

Many religious communities are organised in their own local church congregations.

Being in contact with a religious community is not only important for celebrating mass together, but also for interacting with others in different groups or meetings. You can find out about all the different offers of the respective religious community on their website, over the phone or in person. You can find an overview of different religious communities [here](#).

Leisure and sport

The range of leisure sports on offer in the town of Quakenbrück and the Artland region is very diverse. Whether tennis, fishing, horse riding, cycling, swimming or canoe tours on the Hase, there is something for everyone here.

Would you rather experience something exciting? Then how about a round of Swin Golf at the impressive Gut Vehr on the outskirts of Quakenbrück. Everyone can learn the simplified version of golf here. Fun is guaranteed - whether alone or in a group. Or ride one of our hand lever, bicycle or club trolleys on the disused railway line between Quakenbrück and Fürstenau.

Find out [here](#) where you can find sports halls and sports fields as well as riding halls and tennis courts in Artland.

Libraries

A library is an institution where you can borrow books, CDs, learning materials and learning aids to use at home. It is also a quiet place where you can go to read or study.

The community of Artland has its own library. You will find it at [Quakenbrück, Markt 5](#).

You can find the library's offer and further information at:

<http://www.samtgemeinde-buecherei.de/>

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans*, queer and intersex* (LGBTQI*) people

People of different religions, different genders, different places of origin and different political views all live together peacefully in Germany and have the same rights. This also applies to sexual orientation and gender identity. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender*, queer and intersex* (LGBTQI*) people have the same rights as anyone else in Germany.

For official documentation, Germany has recently added a third option, “divers”, to the traditional “female” and “male”. In Germany, transgender individuals can have their name and gender legally changed. Women are allowed to fall in love with and marry other women in Germany; the same is true for men.

👤 Many LGBTQI+ people have fled their countries of origin due to discrimination and travelled to Germany. If you are a refugee who is lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender*, queer or intersex*, you can find support, community and social contact and information from the many LGBTQI* organisations in Germany. The “Queer Refugees Deutschland” project from LSVD can provide contact details and other information:

Lesben- und Schwulenverband in Deutschland (LSVD) (Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany)
“Queer Refugees Deutschland” project

🌐 www.queer-refugees.de

@ queer-refugees@lsvd.de

In the **District of Osnabrück**, Trans*Beratung Weser-Ems offers support in social, economic and legal matters for those affected, their relatives and acquaintances. Consultations with translation and co-counselling are also possible by appointment. Counselling takes place in Bramsche in the communal counselling rooms run by the City of Bramsche.

Bramsche advice centre

📍 Room E 0.4

[Heinrich-Beerbom-Platz 2 49565 Bramsche](#)

@ weser-ems@trans-recht.de

☎ [01605889070](tel:01605889070)

Further information is available on the following website: [Our offer - Counselling for transgender | transsexuals Oldenburg area](#)