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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](mailto: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](mailto:@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](mailto:brockhaus@artland.de)

### **City map**

Here you will find a practical city map for die Samtgemeinde Artland:

[Stadt- und Gemeindeplan](#)

### **About Integreat**

Integreat is a guide to support you in your everyday life. You will find important addresses, contacts and tips and tricks to help you find your way around.

This guide has several chapters. Each chapter deals with a different topic. For example, you will find information on doctors, schools, German courses and other institutions. There is also a chapter with ideas on what you can do in your free time. The information and leisure activities change and are regularly updated by your local authority. It is therefore a good idea to check your mobile app often to find out about current activities and events. You can rely on the information in Integreat.



You can also use this app offline if you do not have internet access. When you are back online, the app will update itself.

We very much hope that we can simplify your life in Germany with this app.

## Advice and Assistance

### Office for official matters


The Office for Administrative Affairs offers you support in reading, understanding and completing letters and applications from the authorities.

You can find out where you can apply for benefits and what documents you need from the Office for Administrative Affairs.


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

The services are available to you free of charge.

 [EJF multi-generation centre Friedrichstraße 37 a 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

 [05431/9030143](tel:05431/9030143)

 [@behoerdenangelegenheiten@ejf.de](mailto:@behoerdenangelegenheiten@ejf.de)

 Mon: 8:30 - 12:30

Tue: 10:00 - 13:00

Wed: 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

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

14:00 - 17:00

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](mailto: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



## 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:05431182130)

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

Franziska Pohlers

📍 [Markt 2, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

Room 131

☎ [05431/182131](tel:05431182131)

@ [pohlers@artland.de](mailto:pohlers@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](mailto:@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:05431/182554)

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

Mrs Brockhaus

☎ [05431182555](tel:05431182555)

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

Mrs Hölker

☎ [05431/182559](tel:05431/182559)

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

Mrs Müller

☎ [05431/182552](tel:05431/182552)

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

## Equal opportunities commissioner

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## Ms Brockhaus

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

☎ [05431/182401](tel:05431/182401)

[@brockhaus@artland.de](mailto:@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](#).

### **Employment Agency**



The Federal Employment Agency is responsible for everything to do with employment. If you are looking for an apprenticeship, need help choosing a career in Germany, need your school qualifications recognised or similar, the Employment Agency is your point of contact.

When it comes to employment, who is responsible for you depends on your residence status:

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

👤 Are you recognised? Then the [job centre](#) is the right contact for you when it comes to employment.

### **Bersenbrück Employment Agency**

 [Am Bahnhof 15, 49593 Bersenbrück](#)  
 [08004555500](tel:08004555500) (free of charge)

Telephone availability:

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](#)



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

[!\[\]\(919a2cb85b99741a73c0c31a427236a8\_img.jpg\) 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

[!\[\]\(003082e50e3009141f59bd5df831749f\_img.jpg\) Lange Straße 59, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

[!\[\]\(17413706fd4997a1a4bdf85c6864eee1\_img.jpg\) 0541/5019410](#)



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

[!\[\]\(d3102649f02e825ddb76dc3de0190154\_img.jpg\) Youth Welfare Office - Social Space Team](#)

## 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**

[!\[\]\(1f56542a42e2413e44a2b2023033aa2e\_img.jpg\) Am Schölerberg 1, 49082 Osnabrück](#)

[!\[\]\(19d44b37fb4fa155bf9d60c77a3d3cb2\_img.jpg\) 0541/5017777](#)

[@info@vhs-osland.de](mailto:@info@vhs-osland.de)

[!\[\]\(bff896c19919791b89ab521f039b410a\_img.jpg\) Website](#)

#### **DAA Quakenbrück**


[!\[\]\(9f3852d68d41e1e95bc4ec10e81aba4b\_img.jpg\) Lange Straße 34, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)


[!\[\]\(4186b6ce3a1c83eabb297c1bfd00309c\_img.jpg\) 05431/963970](#)

[@info.quakenbrueck@daa.de](mailto:@info.quakenbrueck@daa.de)

 [Website](#)

**IN VIA e.V.**

 [Markt 5, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

 [05431/904190](#)

 [info@invia-quakenbrueck.de](mailto: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](#)

 [gellis@massarbeit.de](mailto:gellis@massarbeit.de)

 [Website](#)

## **Language level and certificates**

There are different language levels. In the language and integration courses, the levels according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages are used:

Language level A: elementary language use

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

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

A more precise distinction is usually made:

A1: Beginners

A2: Basic knowledge

B1: Advanced language use

B2: Independent use of the language

C1: Specialised use of the language

C2: Almost native speaker level

The six levels mean in detail

**A1: Beginner**

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 questions about yourself. For example: What is your name? Where do you live?

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

You can converse with a person if they speak slowly and clearly.

**A2: Basic knowledge**

You can understand sentences and frequently used words. You can understand words in these areas: Personal and family information, shopping, work and your neighbourhood.

You can communicate in simple, everyday situations. You can describe your background, education and environment.

### B1: Advanced use of language

You can understand a lot when it comes to work, school or leisure. You can make yourself understood when travelling. You can talk about familiar topics and personal interests. You can talk about experiences and events. They can describe dreams, hopes and goals. You can give brief reasons or explanations for plans and opinions.

### B2: Independent use of language

You can understand the most important content of complex texts on concrete and abstract topics. You can also understand specialised discussions in your field of specialisation. You can communicate spontaneously and fluently. A normal conversation with native speakers is possible without much effort on either side. You can express yourself clearly and in detail on many different topics. You can explain a point of view on a topical issue. You can state the advantages and disadvantages of various options.

### C1: Specialised language skills

You can understand a lot of demanding, longer texts. You can also grasp implicit meanings. You can express yourself spontaneously and fluently. You rarely have to search for words. You can use the language effectively and flexibly in social and professional life or in training and studies. You can express yourself clearly, in a structured and detailed manner on complex issues. You can use various means of linking texts appropriately.

### C2: (Almost) native speaker level

You can understand practically everything you read or hear with ease. You can summarise information from different written and oral sources. You can give reasons and explanations in a coherent presentation. You can express yourself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely. You can also make finer nuances of meaning clear in more complex situations.

## 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

There are not only people in the German population, but also immigrants who cannot read and write sufficiently. Many of them have to overcome this additional hurdle: they have to speak German and learn to read and write 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, which makes it easier for them to participate in further language courses.

Further information can be obtained from the [Migration Centre](#), the [Youth Migration Service](#), the [Foreigners' Registration 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 Pohlrs

📍 [Markt 2, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

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

📄 [05431/182145](tel:05431182145)

@ [kellers@artland.de](mailto:kellers@artland.de) [pohlrs@artland.de](mailto:pohlrs@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](mailto: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



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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.osnabrueck-university.de) 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](mailto:international@uni-osnabrueck.de)

### **Contact**

Osnabrück University

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

☎ [05419690](tel:05419690)

@[studios@uni-osnabrueck.de](mailto: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](mailto:international@hs-osnabrueck.de)

### **Tatjana Maier - Counselling for international students and prospective students**

☎ [05419693045](tel:05419693045)

@[t.maier@hs-osnabrueck.de](mailto: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](mailto:m.arnold@hs-osnabrueck.de)

### **Contact**

Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences

📍 [Albrechtstraße 30, 49076 Osnabrück](#)

☎ [05419690](tel:05419690)

@[webmaster@hs-osnabrueck.de](mailto: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](mailto: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:

🌐 [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.

🌐 [Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung \(FES\) - Scholarships for Refugees](#)

🌐 [Böckler-Aktion Bildung by the Hans-Böckler-Stiftung](#)

🌐 [Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung \(KAS\) - Scholarships for Refugees](#)

🌐 [Villigst - Our Scholarships for refugees](#)

🌐 [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.

🌐 [University guarantee fund from Otto Benecke Stiftung in Bonn](#)

🌐 [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).

🌐 [Hochschulaktion für Geflüchtete website](#)

🌐 [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](mailto:bluemke@bus-gmbh.de)

Lena Gottschlich

☎ [0541/6929633](tel:0541/6929633)

@[gottschlich@bus-gmbh.de](mailto:gottschlich@bus-gmbh.de)

Katharina Loose

☎ [0541/6929630](tel:0541/6929630)

@[loose@bus-gmbh.de](mailto:loose@bus-gmbh.de)

Branka Zivotic

☎ [0541/6929623](tel:0541/6929623)

@[zivotic@bus-gmbh.de](mailto: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 co-operation

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 for administrative matters](#).

Parents' evenings are held regularly at the school.

Here, all parents meet together with the class teachers and talk about what is important in the current school year and what activities are planned.

It is important that you attend these meetings as you will receive important information. This will help your child, but also the class teachers.

If you do not yet speak German well, you can bring a friend or acquaintance with you to translate or ask the school if they can organise a translator. The school can contact the [Social Integration Centre](#) of the Samtgemeinde Artland, which will look for a suitable interpreter from the volunteer interpreter pool.

Another important date is the parents' consultation day. This takes place twice a year. Here you meet alone with your child's teachers. You talk about what your child is good at and where they need help.

It is important that you go to these appointments because this is an important exchange. This will help your child to have as few problems as possible at school.

If you do not yet speak German well, you can bring a friend or acquaintance with you to translate or ask the school if they can organise a translator. The school can contact the [Fachstelle Gesellschaftliche Integration](#) der Samtgemeinde Artland, who will look for a suitable interpreter from 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 (AsylbLG) (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](mailto:info@gs-badbergen.de)

🌐 [www.gs-badbergen.de](http://www.gs-badbergen.de)

Grundschule Menslage

📍 [Spiekstraße 20, 49637 Menslage](#)

☎ [05437/1221](#)

@ [info@grundschule-menslage.de](mailto:info@grundschule-menslage.de)

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

Grundschule Nortrup

📍 [Schulstraße 4, 49638 Nortrup](#)

☎ [05436/1033](#)

@ [info@grundschule-nortrup.de](mailto: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](mailto:grundschule@gs-am-langen-esch.de)

🌐 <http://www.gsale.de/>

Grundschule Hengelage

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

☎ [05431/2144](#)

@ [info@gs-hengelage.de](mailto:info@gs-hengelage.de)

🌐 <http://www.gs-hengelage.de/>

Grundschule Neustadt

📍 [Gänseweg 1, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

☎ [05431/7329](#)

@ [info@gs-neustadt-quakenbrueck.de](mailto: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](mailto:sekretariat@artland-gym.de)

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

Oberschule Artland

📍 [Jahnstraße 24, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

☎ [05431/922900](tel:05431922900)

@ [info@obs-artland.de](mailto: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](mailto: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@lks.de](mailto:kreismusikschule@lks.de)

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

Musikschule der Burgmannskapelle Quakenbrück

📍 [Danziger Straße 4, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

☎ [0160/93510530](tel:016093510530)

@ [burgmannskapelle@gmail.com](mailto:burgmannskapelle@gmail.com)

🌐 [www.burgmannskapelle.de](http://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](tel:054391773) and [054391645](tel: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

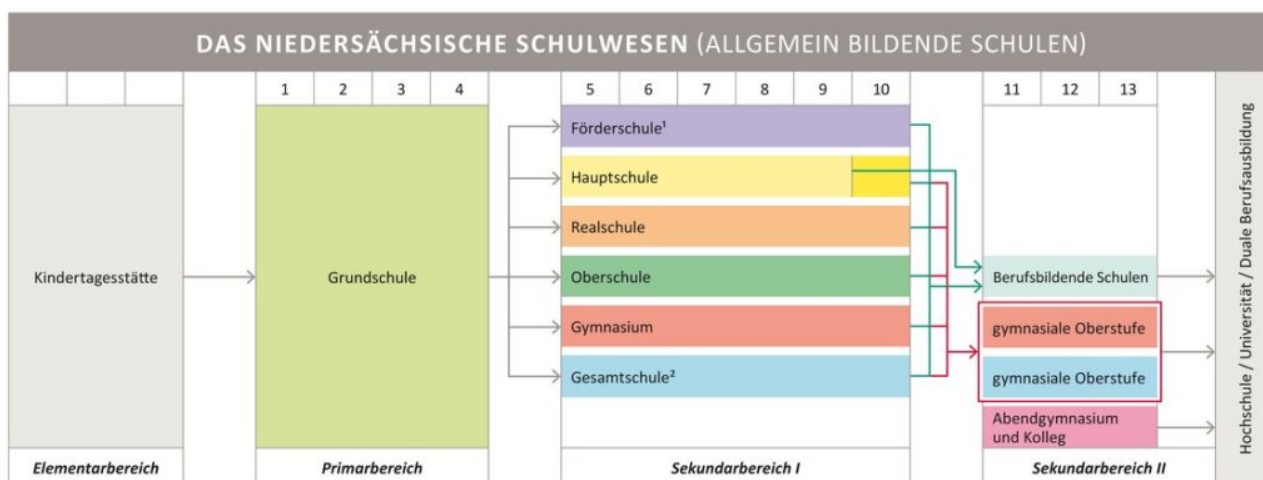
In the context of compulsory school attendance, guardians and custodians (usually the parents) bear a great responsibility. All children who will turn 6 by 30 September of the year of enrolment are of compulsory school age. Compulsory schooling ends in principle after 12 years. In exceptional cases, 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



<sup>1</sup> In der FOS können Schülerinnen und Schüler aller Schuljahrgänge unterrichtet werden, NSchG § 14, Abs. 4 und § 5, Abs. 3, Nr. 3  
 Förderschulen mit dem Förderschwerpunkt Lernen laufen im Primarbereich aufsteigend ab dem Schuljahr 2013/2014  
 (erstmalig ohne 1. Schuljahrgang) aus, im Sekundarbereich I aufsteigend ab dem Schuljahr 2017/2018 (erstmalig ohne 5. Schuljahrgang),  
 also wird zum Schuljahresbeginn 2016/2017 letztmalig in den 5. Schuljahrgang aufgenommen.

<sup>2</sup> Bestehende Kooperative Gesamtschulen haben nach NSchG § 183 b Bestandsschutz

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](mailto: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](http://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

In Germany, many institutions are part of the healthcare system. The healthcare system has three areas:

Outpatient medical care by doctors and pharmacies ("outpatient" means: patient goes home after care).

Inpatient medical care through acute care in hospitals ("inpatient" means: patient stays in hospital for treatment).

Public health service through preventive services provided by the public health department ("preventive" means: services to maintain health and avoid becoming ill).

Outpatient and inpatient care provide medical treatment for sick people. Everyone can decide for themselves which doctor or facility they go to.

The health service (health service for the district and city of Osnabrück) fulfils preventative tasks (for example: information and advice on the subject of health). The aim is to ensure a healthy life in the district. You can find more information about the health service [here](#).

### 💡 Good to know:

Hospitals treat people who are seriously ill or have life-threatening injuries. For minor injuries or illnesses that are not an emergency, it is best to go to a doctor's surgery. You will get good help there!

Do you need a doctor at night or at the weekend - but it's not an emergency? Then you can call here and find out which doctor's surgery is currently open:

### Medical on-call service

only in the evening and at weekends

☎ [116 117](tel:116117)

### Dental emergency service

only at weekends

🌐 [www.zahnarzt-notdienst.de](http://www.zahnarzt-notdienst.de)

### Pharmacy emergency service

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

0800 00 22 8 33 (free of charge)

from a mobile phone: 22 8 33 (max. 69 cents / min.)

The German healthcare system in 14 languages

In the brochure "[Gesundheit für alle - Ein Wegweiser durch das deutsche Gesundheitswesen](#)" you will find all the important information in 14 languages.

## Visit to the doctor

### General practitioners and specialists

If you are ill, you go to your family doctor. You can choose this yourself. The GPs themselves determine the opening hours. You should therefore make an appointment if you need help from your family doctor.

GPs carry out important examinations and are your first point of contact in the event of illness. They also decide what medication you need and whether a specialist examination is necessary.

If necessary, your GP will refer you to a specialist who can carry out specialised examinations.

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 straight to an ophthalmologist.

If you have a toothache, go straight to a dentist.

Children are treated by a paediatrician.

**If the practice is closed, the medical on-call service (telephone [116 117](tel:116117)).**

### Paediatricians and paediatricians

Children are usually examined by paediatricians. Regular check-ups and vaccinations at the paediatrician are important for the health of every child. The prescribed check-ups are called "U examinations" and are always free of charge and at a specific time. Please take your child to a

paediatrician to find out about the regular, prescribed U-examinations.

## Dentists and dentists

If you have a toothache, go to a dentist.

## Ophthalmologists and eye specialists

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

## Gynaecologists (female and male gynaecologists)

It is important that women are regularly examined by a gynaecologist. This allows diseases to be recognised in good time. This is called a check-up. You can also discuss the topic of contraception there.

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

💡 If you are an asylum seeker and need to see a doctor, you will receive a treatment voucher from the social welfare office. With this, the doctor's visit is free of charge for you.

💡 If an operation is necessary and it is **not** an emergency, the social welfare office must authorise the hospital stay in advance. Your doctor will issue you with a certificate to this effect. Only medically necessary operations can be covered.

### Social welfare office

**Mr Hackmann**

**(Asylum seeker benefits)**

📍 [Market 2, 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

☎ [05431/182135](tel:05431182135)

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

## Medicines and pharmacies

If you need medication, you will receive a prescription from your doctor. You can get your medication with this prescription at any pharmacy. Pharmacies are usually open from Monday to Saturday. The opening hours vary depending on the pharmacy. If you need medication urgently at night or at the weekend, you will find a sign at every pharmacy with the name and address of the pharmacy that is open for emergency service. You can also find this information on the Internet.

Search for pharmacy emergency services

🌐 [www.aponet.de](http://www.aponet.de)

💡 As an asylum seeker, you will receive many medications without a co-payment. You should therefore ask your doctor about this. 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. You only contact an emergency doctor or ambulance service in the event of an emergency or an acute health threat.

## Emergency contacts

**Police** ☎ [110](#)

**Fire brigade, rescue service** ☎ [112](#)

**Ambulance, emergency doctor** ☎ [112](#)

💡 The emergency numbers on mobile phones always work, even if you have a prepaid card without credit/money!

## Important information for an emergency call

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

Remain calm. Speak slowly and clearly so that you can be better understood. Do not end the call. The emergency call centre / police will end the call when all important information has been transmitted.

💡 Do not forget your identity card or proof of arrival when you go to hospital! If you are registered with a health insurance company, bring your insurance card with you.

💡 As an asylum seeker, you may only go to hospital without a treatment voucher in an emergency. At the hospital, you must show that you are an asylum seeker with your proof of arrival and the costs will be settled via 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](http://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 your 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:info@artland.de)

#### Bus, train and bike

Many places in your home town and the surrounding area can be easily reached by public transport. A healthy, inexpensive and environmentally friendly alternative for getting from A to B is a bicycle.

#### Public transport

To get to your destination in the joint municipality of Artland and the district of Osnabrück, you can use public transport. These include the [Nord-West-Bahn](#) and the [Osnabrück Transport Association \(VOS\)](#).

Travelling without a ticket will be penalised! You must have a valid ticket for every journey. Otherwise you will pay a heavy fine.

### **Bicycle**

If you know that you will be living in the Samtgemeinde Artland for a longer period of time, it is worth buying a bicycle. It's cheaper than travelling by public transport.

💡 Important traffic rules for cyclists (selection):

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

💡 Purchase and repairs: When buying a bike, make sure that it is equipped as follows and is therefore roadworthy. Otherwise you will have to pay a fine if you are stopped by the police.

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

## **Driving licence and car**

### **The driving licence**

To drive a car in Germany, everyone needs an international driving licence or a national driving licence including a translation of the document by an officially recognised translator. This regulation does not apply to EU citizens.

#### **1. having a foreign driving licence converted**

Are you already in possession of a driving licence from your home country?

With a foreign driving licence (non-EU/EEA), you are generally allowed to drive for six months after taking up residence in Germany.

After that, you must have your driving licence transferred.

This means that you will have to take another theoretical and practical test.

You can find out more about this at the [district](#) driving licence office.

Foreign driving licences for cars are generally recognised for EU citizens. You can have your driving licence voluntarily converted without having to take another theoretical or practical test. These rules do not apply to driving licences for lorries or buses, where the driving licence must be rewritten after a period of time has expired.

#### **2. get a new driving licence**

If you want to drive in Germany and do not yet have a recognised driving licence, you must attend a driving school. There you will learn the traffic rules in Germany and how to drive a car in theoretical and practical lessons.

The driving lessons and driving tests are subject to a fee. Clarify the costs with your driving school beforehand!

You can obtain further information and application forms from the driving school or [driving licence office](#).

## **Buying a car**

If you have bought a car, you must register it at the vehicle registration office.

For this you will need:

- Identity card, passport or residence permit
- vehicle registration certificate
- Registration certificate part II
- SEPA direct debit mandate for vehicle tax
- Car insurance

The citizens' office of the joint municipality of Artland is responsible for this. Appointments can be booked online [here](#).

■ In Germany, everyone who owns and wants to drive a vehicle (vehicle owner) must have motor vehicle insurance. Without insurance, the car cannot be registered. This covers any damage you cause to other vehicles or people. This also applies to motorbikes.

You can find information in different languages 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 programmes from ARD, ZDF and Deutschlandradio. They report free from economic and political influences. Everyone pays money for this. This is called the licence fee.

The law stipulates that a licence fee must be paid for every home in Germany. However, only one person per home has to pay the licence fee. This costs €18.36 per month and must be paid to the ARD, ZDF and Deutschlandradio contribution service. Further information can be found on the [broadcasting licence fee website](#) (also available in English, French, Arabic, Mandarin, Spanish, Ukrainian and Russian).

Some people can be exempted from paying. 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 licence fee.

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

## Internet

### Public, free WLAN hotspots in the joint municipality of Artland

Free Wi-Fi is available in several places in public areas, for example in city centres, libraries, restaurants or media houses. You can surf the internet there with your own device. In Quakenbrück there is free WLAN on the market square.

## Mobile Internet

You need a contract or a prepaid card to use mobile internet on your mobile phone.

Caution: Be careful with [mobile phone contracts](#). A contract that you can cancel at any time is better than a contract that is valid for a long time (e.g. 2 years).

If you have any questions about mobile phone contracts, you can contact the following organisations: Your [local authority](#), the [migration advice centre](#) or the [youth migration service](#).

## Private WLAN

You can take out a WLAN contract for your flat yourself. Before signing the contract, ask your landlord or landlady whether WLAN is technically possible at all and how you can give the technician access.

## Information for asylum seekers

Unfortunately, asylum seekers in Germany are not legally entitled to Internet access (WIFI) in their accommodation. Therefore, there is usually no internet access (WIFI) in the accommodation centres. If there is a telephone connection in the accommodation, it is possible for you to take out a contract for WLAN yourself.

## Bank account

A current account is an account for people who want to make payments via the bank. Your money is available in your current account at all times. Make sure that you have enough money in your account for all withdrawals and payments.


With a current account you can


- Make transfers
- Receive cashless payments (payments from public offices / authorities / social benefits are often made cashless, i.e. transferred to a personal current account)
- Set up standing orders
- Participate in direct debits
- Cashing cheques
- Make cashless payments with the EC/Maestro card
- Withdraw cash at the bank counter or at an ATM
- Print out your account statements

## Opening an account

Decide which bank you would like to have an account with. Make an appointment to open an account. Please bring one of your identification documents with you: Proof of arrival, residence permit, identity card. If no current address is noted on the legitimisation document, please also bring a registration certificate or a comparable document.

- After opening the account, you will receive an EC card with a four-digit PIN code. Sign the back of the EC card and memorise the PIN code. You will need the PIN code for cashless payments and for withdrawing money from ATMs. **Be sure to keep your card and PIN code separate!**
- If you want to withdraw cash, it is best to use the ATMs of the bank where you have your account. Then the withdrawal costs nothing. If the PIN code is entered incorrectly three times at the ATM, the debit card will be cancelled and blocked. In this case, you must ask your bank.
- If your debit card is lost or stolen, have it blocked immediately. State your sort code and 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 current account costs each month and what services the bank offers in return.

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

## Contracts and mobile phones

### Mobile phone

There are basically two different mobile phone contracts in Germany: Prepaid contracts and fixed-term contracts. The prepaid contract has no fixed contract term, whereas a fixed-term contract has a minimum contract term. This contract is automatically renewed if you do not cancel it. Cancellation must be made in writing and in due time. In contrast to a fixed-term contract, there is no basic fee for a prepaid contract.

10 important questions for signing a contract:

- How high is the basic fee? Does the fee increase after a certain period of time?
- Is there a minimum monthly turnover (minimum costs per month)?
- How long is the contract for (e.g. 12 or 24 months)?
- When do I have to cancel if I don't want to extend the contract?
- How much does a minute cost (external/own network)?
- How much does a mobile phone with a contract cost and how much does a mobile phone without a contract cost?
- How much does Internet cost?
- How much do international calls cost?

## Contracts

Contracts are concluded in Germany, for example, when starting work, moving into a new home, buying a car or mobile phone or for a gym membership. Be sure to pay attention to the content of a contract: How is the total price made up? Are there other monthly costs in addition to a one-off payment? Contracts are binding and must be honoured. They can only be cancelled within the applicable notice period. If I do not cancel the contract, it may be automatically renewed.

Children and young people under the age of 18 cannot conclude contracts. In any case, make sure that your children cannot access your account details.

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

Once you sign, the contract is binding. It is therefore always a good idea to read through a contract at your leisure and have it explained to you in detail before you sign anything.

This is particularly important:

**Never sign anything that you have not understood or cannot read.** Otherwise you may end up signing a contract or agreement under which you have to pay something. It is sometimes very difficult to undo this. Always check and compare several offers and take your time to decide.

Don't let anyone pressure you into signing an agreement. Anyone who pressurises you is not an honest salesperson.

Do not sign any contracts on the phone, on the street, in front of a supermarket or on your doorstep!

Never give out your bank details over the phone!

Further information can be found on the website of the [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](http://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:05431/182146)

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

Mr Teichmann



[Markt 2, room 133 49610 Quakenbrück](#)

☎ [05431/182133](tel:05431/182133)

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

### Important terms and costs

You can search for flats in the local newspapers or on the Internet.

You will find an e-mail address or telephone number in the adverts. You need to call them and make an appointment to view the flat. You will then view the flat with the landlord or landlady. If you do not yet speak German well, take a friend or acquaintance with you.

When viewing the flat, you can ask the following questions:

- How much does the rent cost per month?
- How much does electricity, heating, gas and water cost?
- Does the flat use a lot of energy?

💡 After the appointment, you should let the landlord or landlady know quickly whether you would like the flat.

If the landlord wants to let you the flat, he or she should give you an overview of the rental and ancillary costs or a rental agreement. This must show the size of the flat, the rent and the costs that make up the rent.

## Important terms and costs

### Explanation of important abbreviations in flat adverts:

Whg. = flat; App. = flat; WG = shared flat; Zi. = room; ZKB = room-kitchen-bathroom; EG = ground floor; 1. OG = 1st floor; Wohnfl. = living space; EBK = fitted kitchen; teilmbf. = partly furnished; incl. = inclusive; MM = rent per month; NK = service charges; HK = heating costs; Kaut. = deposit

### Tenancy agreement

A commitment for a flat only becomes binding with a tenancy agreement. The tenancy agreement clarifies both the rights and obligations of the landlord and the rights and obligations of the tenant. The tenancy agreement also contains many other important details that you should read carefully (billing of heating and operating costs, notice periods, keeping pets, subletting and much more).

Read the tenancy agreement carefully before you sign it. Have the tenancy agreement read through by a friend with a good knowledge of German or get professional support, for example from the Tenants' Protection Association. This organisation supports tenants with legal issues relating to rent.

### House rules

The house rules describe the rules for living together in the building. These include, for example, quiet hours in the house from 10 pm to 8 am, clearing snow in winter, regular cleaning of the stairwell and much more. Read the regulations in the house rules carefully.

### Landlord's certificate

This form must be completed by your landlord or landlady. You need this certificate for your re-registration (change of address) in your municipality or at the residents' registration office.

You must re-register in your new municipality as soon as possible, at the latest after 2 weeks.

### Basic rent

The basic rent refers to the cost of the flat excluding ancillary costs such as water, heating, water heating, caretaker and property tax. The cold rent is always lower than the warm rent.

### Warm rent

The warm rent refers to the total costs for the flat, i.e. the cold rent plus ancillary costs. However, sometimes there are additional costs on top of the warm rent, such as electricity, radio, television and waste disposal.

When looking for a flat, you should always check whether the advert states the basic rent or the warm rent. Without details of the ancillary costs, some flat offers appear deceptively cheap. You should therefore clarify in advance which costs are included in the rent.

### Deposit

The deposit serves as financial security for the landlord or landlady in case something breaks

in the flat. The deposit usually amounts to 2-3 basic rents.

At the end of the tenancy, the deposit is refunded if the flat is handed over to the landlord or the next tenant clean and without any defects.

It is best to take photos of the condition of the flat when you move in or hand it over. This way, you can later prove 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 landlord. The landlord or landlady primarily wants to check whether the tenant is able to pay the rent. You can draw up the tenant self-disclosure form yourself. It contains the following information:

- First name and surname
- Date of birth
- Current address
- Contact details (telephone and e-mail)
- Current profession and employer
- Monthly income
- Schufa credit report

A Schufa report provides information about your solvency. You can apply for a Schufa report online. Make sure you apply for it in good time so that it arrives in good time for your flat search.

The free version of the Schufa report is called "[Data copy according to Art. 15 GDPR](#)". This is sufficient for landlords.

### **Libraries**

A library or bookshop is a facility where you can borrow books, CDs, learning materials and learning aids to take home. It is also possible to study or read there in peace and quiet.

The joint municipality of Artland has its own library. You will find it in [Quakenbrück, Markt 5](#). The library's services and further information can be found at:  
<http://www.samtgemeinde-buecherei.de/>

## **Religion**

### **Religious freedom**

Freedom of religion applies in Germany. This 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. You may also not be discriminated against on the basis of your religion, for example when looking for work. Religious freedom also means accepting the beliefs of others. Germany does not have a state church. State and religion are separate.

This means, for example:

- All people are free to choose and practise their own religion and beliefs



- All people have the freedom to be non-religious - anyone who does not believe in God is allowed to say so publicly
- People of different religions and beliefs are allowed to marry each other
- Marriage only counts as a legally binding marriage before the registry office. Marriages entered into exclusively within the framework of a religion are not legally binding in Germany
- Religious laws do not determine 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.

## What does LGBTQIA+ mean? Simply explained

You have probably heard or read these letters before. You may have wondered what they mean. These letters stand for different groups of people who express their sexual orientation or gender identity. Here is a simple and understandable explanation.

### What is behind "LGBTQIA+"?

LGBTQIA+ is an abbreviation that encompasses various terms. Each letter stands for something different and together they represent the diversity of people. Here is a simple explanation:

**L** stands for lesbian, meaning women who fall in love with other women.

Men who fall in love with other men are called "gay".

**B** stands for bisexual: people who can fall in love with both men and women.

**T** stands for transgender: people whose gender (i.e. whether they were born a boy or a girl) does not match their perceived gender.

**Q** stands for queer and is an umbrella term for all people who do not want to be categorised according to traditional ideas of gender and sexuality.

**I** stands for intersex: people who were born with physical characteristics that cannot be clearly categorised as male or female.

**A** stands for asexual: people who have little or no interest in sexual relationships. The "+" at the end indicates that there are even more identities, not all of which are listed here. This abbreviation is intended to include all people who feel different from the majority.

### **Why is this important?**

The LGBTIQ\* community often struggles against discrimination and prejudice. It is important to understand that sexual orientation and gender identity are personal aspects that people cannot control. No one should be discriminated against or treated badly because of these aspects.

You want to discover yourself, but at the same time you are confronted with the prejudices and insecurities of others. An understanding of the community can help to create a supportive and inclusive environment in which young people can accept themselves.

### **LGBTQIA+ rights**

In Germany, everyone is free to live out their sexual orientation. Homosexuality is permitted. For example, women can be lesbian and men can be gay or people can be bisexual. Lesbians, gays and trans\*people can be open and meet each other.

Same-sex couples can live together and have been able to marry since 2017. Some also raise children together; these families are called rainbow families.

The SBGG will make it easier for transgender, intersex and non-binary people to have their gender registration and first names changed. The law will come into force in its entirety on 1 November 2024.

Lesbians and gays must not be discriminated against. There are laws on this. You can find information on this at

[General Equal Treatment Act \(AGG\)](#) and [Act on Self-Determination with regard to Gender Registration \(SBGG\)](#)

### **Transgender, non-binary and intersex people / gender identity**

In Germany, all people have equal rights, regardless of their gender. This means that people in Germany can be neither female nor male, they can then state their gender as "diverse" or "unspecified". Trans\*people are allowed to live openly in Germany and receive medical treatment, they are allowed to harmonise their gender. None of these people may be discriminated against either. You can find information on this here: <https://www.antidiskriminierungsstelle.de/DE/ueber-disk...>

### **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 Germany and live in a shared accommodation centre, these are the next steps for you.

### 1. personal application for asylum

- You apply for asylum at the **Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)**
- Asylum procedure counselling can provide you with important information for the asylum procedure. The refugee and integration counselling service is responsible for this
- **Important:** You can only submit your application in person. 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 manager

### 2. first interview appointment (asylum application)

You must report to the [immigration office](#) after your first appointment.

### 3. personal interview

The second interview appointment is the actual interview. The BAMF will then decide on your asylum application and send you a decision. The decision will be explained in detail.

#### a) The decision is negative

- If the decision is negative and you wish to contest it (i.e. you do not agree with it), go to your [asylum counselling](#) centre immediately. They will discuss with you what you can do and can put you in touch with specialised lawyers. For example, you can take legal action against the decision
- If you decide to leave voluntarily, you can receive financial support for your new start in your country of origin

#### b) The decision is positive, i.e. you are recognised as entitled to protection. The next steps are

**Fictitious certificate or electronic residence permit (eAT):** Immediately after the positive BAMF decision has been delivered, you must obtain an identity document or its equivalent. You

can obtain this from the [Residents' Registration Office \(Foreigners' Registration Office\)](#).

**Job centre:** You will no longer receive your money from the social welfare office, but must submit an application to 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](#).