

Work opportunities for asylum seekers

New rules for work opportunities have applied since the end of February 2024. Refugees who receive benefits under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act (AsylbLG) can now work under new conditions.

 This text provides a general overview of work opportunities. It is not legally binding. Detailed and binding information can be found on the [website of the City of Augsburg](#).

What are work opportunities?

- Work opportunities are simple jobs for asylum seekers, tolerated persons and persons obliged to leave the country who receive money under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act (AsylbLG).
- If you have such a job, you will receive a small allowance.
- The work is not-for-profit, which means it helps society.

What are the advantages of work opportunities?

- You can get to know new people and practise your German.
- You prepare yourself for an apprenticeship or a job.
- They get a fixed daily structure.
- Avoid boredom and the negative consequences of unemployment.

Who can do these jobs?

Asylum seekers can do the work opportunities. You must fulfil the following requirements:

- They are fit for work, i.e. they can work.
- You no longer have to go to school.
- You have not yet retired.

Who offers work opportunities?

Work opportunities can be offered by state, municipal or non-profit organisations. These are, for example

- City of Augsburg
- associations
- social organisations such as Diakonie, Caritas, Red Cross and others.

These institutions can register jobs with the Office for Social Services, Senior Citizens and People with Disabilities (ASL). The ASL then assigns suitable people to these jobs. However, there is no entitlement to a specific job. The city decides on a case-by-case basis.

Which activities are eligible as non-profit work opportunities?

The work must be useful for the general public. In other words, it should help society and not serve to earn money.

Examples of such work.

- Landscape maintenance: removing weeds, clearing rubbish and leaves.
- Maintaining paths: Maintaining footpaths and cycle paths.
- Environmental and nature conservation: keeping streams and rivers clean.
- Garden maintenance: create and maintain flower meadows and orchards.
- Help in the building yard and recycling centre: Simple work in parks and green spaces.
- Making school and daycare centre grounds more beautiful: Assistance with small outdoor jobs.
- Social tasks: Supporting elderly people, language teaching for refugees.
- Maintaining sports and leisure facilities: Removing rubbish from playgrounds and sports fields.
- Help after natural disasters: Cleaning up after flooding or heavy snowfall.
- Clearing snow
- Workshop work: Repairing old bicycles or furniture
- Furniture transport

How many hours can you work?

There is no fixed rule, but:

- Work must not exceed 20 hours per week.
- It must not be a full-time job.
- One-off jobs are also possible.

Are asylum seekers insured while they are working?

- Work opportunities are not a real job, but a special type of employment. Therefore, there is no health, pension or unemployment insurance.
- However, in the event of an accident at work, people are covered by statutory accident insurance. If something happens, the accident is first reported to the ASL. The Bavarian Municipal Accident Insurance Fund (KUVB) then takes care of the next steps.

💡 The labour protection laws apply to the work opportunities. This means that there are rules on working hours, safety and protection in the workplace.

Who is liable if something breaks?

If someone damages something during work, special rules apply:

- In the case of intent (wilful intent) or gross negligence, the person must pay for the damage themselves.
- Minor damage is often covered by insurance.

Do I need a permit from the foreigners authority?

No. Permission from the immigration authority is not required for a work opportunity under the AsylbLG. There are no restrictions for refugees to take part in these jobs.

How much money do asylum seekers receive for their work?

- They receive a small allowance of 0.80 euros per hour.
- This money is paid in addition to social benefits and does not count as income.
- If you have additional travelling costs or other expenses, you can get them back.

💡 The money is paid by the Office for Social Benefits, Senior Citizens and People with Disabilities.

Do asylum seekers have to accept the work?

- The ASL first allocates the work opportunities to volunteers.
- The ASL can oblige some asylum seekers to take on work.
- If someone refuses or quits without good reason, this can lead to a reduction in social benefits.

What happens if cooperation does not work well?

If there are problems, the ASL, the institution and the person taking part talk to each other.

- The aim is to find a solution so that the person can continue working.
- If this does not work, a new job opportunity is sought.
- There are no notice periods - in other words, the job can be terminated or changed at any time.

What are the responsibilities and costs of the institution offering the work?

The organisations that offer work opportunities have certain tasks and costs.

- There must be people there to guide the asylum seeker.
The costs for this are borne by the institution itself. The Free State of Bavaria or the city pay nothing.
- If necessary, the institution must provide protective clothing (e.g. gloves or safety shoes).
- If a health certificate is required, the costs may be covered. You must discuss this with the ASL beforehand.¹²
- The institution must document working hours and send proof to the ASL every month.
- The institution must inform the ASL if
 - a person is ill
 - a person is absent without an excuse
 - a person refuses to work
 - an accident at work occurs