

Table of Contents

Basic knowledge of Germany	2
What you should know about Germany	2
What you can expect	3
What we expect of you	3

Basic knowledge of Germany

What you should know about Germany

Germany is a constitutional state: everyone living in Germany must abide by the key principles of the political and legal system. The main legal basis for life in Germany is the Basic Law. This is the constitution of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Basic Law guarantees human dignity, freedom and justice. There are laws to ensure that human rights are upheld. The laws apply in the same way to everybody in Germany. The state has to abide by the law. Everyone living in Germany must also abide by German laws.

Important values in Germany that are protected by the Basic Law and other legislation include

Personal freedom: All adults are allowed to make their own decisions and determine their own lives. It does not matter if you are male or female, young or old, with or without disabilities, or what your skin colour or religious affiliation are. All human beings are free to do what they please as long as they abide by the law and do not restrict other people's freedom.

Gender equality: Women and men have the same rights. This is reflected in the law and in daily life.

Children's rights: Children and young people have rights. These rights are expressed in the United Nations Convention on Children's Rights. This applies to all children and young people under the age of 18 in Germany. In addition, there are many other laws in Germany that specifically protect the lives, health and rights of children. Safeguarding children is always the main priority.

Freedom from violence: Everyone has the right to live their lives free from violence. This means that everyone has the right to life and physical integrity. It applies to both physical and mental health. It also applies to people's private lives.

Social justice: The state must respect and protect human dignity. Therefore it should provide social justice in the best way possible. For that, it takes legal, financial and material measures. Everyone in Germany who is earning money pays part of their earnings to the state (tax). The higher your income, the more you have to pay. The state is expected to spend this money for the benefit of everyone living in Germany.

Freedom of opinion: Everyone is entitled to form their own opinion and express it freely. People are also allowed to express those opinions in public. All the media are also free, and everyone can obtain information from them. Anyone who expresses their opinion openly must be aware of respecting the personal honour and dignity of other people.

Religious freedom: Religion and beliefs are private matters in Germany. The state does not prescribe to anyone whether they should have religious beliefs or which god they should believe in. The state and religion are separate. Many people in Germany now work to ensure that there is dialogue between religions. The aim is the peaceful co-existence of people who are religious, those who are devout and those who do not belong to any religion. The state is committed to ideological neutrality. Provided that practising a religion does not endanger democracy or the separation of state and religion, it will be protected.

According to the Basic Law, every person living in Germany is therefore a free and self-determined individual. No distinctions may be made on the basis of gender, origin (ancestry,

language, home country), skin colour, religion, beliefs or philosophy, disability, age or sexual orientation.

Germany is also a social state: fundamentally, every citizen is expected to earn a living for themselves through work. However, the state helps people who cannot provide an income for themselves in whole or in part. The rules for co-existence in Germany are based on these fundamental rights.

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

What you can expect

Protection of the individual is ensured by the fact that you are living in a constitutional state. You are protected from unfair treatment, as everyone in Germany is equal before the law. The police has the role of ensuring that everyone is able to live in freedom and safety. In Germany, the police is a trustworthy organisation.

If, however, you do not abide by the law yourself, you can expect penalties. This also applies to things that may not be illegal in your country. The following is illegal in Germany: taking the law into your own hands; violence against children; violence against spouses. Sexual contact is permitted only if everyone involved expressly consents. Even minor offences, such as driving without a licence/ticket or failure to pay bills are immediately punished by fines and, if appropriate, further measures may be taken.

Since you are living in a social state, people who are in need of help receive welfare benefits, assistance with organising their day-to-day lives and help through a wide range of social services. The aim of this support system is to enable you to earn a living for yourself and lead an independent life as quickly as possible.

What we expect of you

Integration consists of support and expectations. On the one hand, you will obtain a wide range of support with integration, on the other hand you are obliged to make certain efforts yourself. Integration depends on the openness of the people who already live here. And it depends on your willingness to respect our way of life, our laws and our culture, and to learn our language.

We therefore expect you to observe German laws and the basic rules of our co-existence, to respect the values of our society and to use the services provided to refugees actively. In this way, you will be able to integrate into German society and the job market as quickly as possible and to earn a living for yourself independently of the welfare benefits available from the state. The foundation for successful integration is learning the German language. It is therefore important that you learn to speak German quickly.