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## Education Training Study

### Recognition of foreign educational qualifications

#### Certificates and their importance in Germany

Certificates are important in Germany. They show what someone has learnt at school, at university or at work. A job reference describes your performance in your job.

A certificate proves what knowledge and skills you have. This helps when looking for a job. You also need a certificate for admission to a school or university.

If you have certificates from abroad, you can have them recognised. An authority will check which qualifications the certificate confirms. This allows you to categorise your achievements correctly.

If certificates are missing, there are alternatives. You can prove your professional experience and skills through tests

#### Recognising school qualifications from abroad

Anyone who has obtained a school-leaving qualification outside Bavaria should contact the Bavarian State Office for Schools. This authority checks whether the qualification is equivalent to a German school-leaving qualification. The examination is free of charge.

#### **Bayerisches Landesamt für Schule | Bewertung von allgemeinbildenden Schulabschlüssen aus dem Ausland, Prüfung der Gleichwertigkeit von bestimmten ausländischen Berufsabschlüssen**

📍 [Stuttgarter Str. 1, 91710 Gunzenhausen](#)

✉ [@zast@las.bayern.de](mailto:@zast@las.bayern.de)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 98315166444](tel:+49(0)98315166444)

🌐 <https://www.las.bayern.de/zeugnisanerkennung/zeug...>


#### Recognising professional qualifications from abroad

Anyone who has completed a vocational or academic qualification abroad can get support. The bfz (Berufliche Fortbildungszentren der Bayerischen Wirtschaft) helps with recognition.


The bfz offers

- Advice on recognition
- Help with the application
- Support with the costs
- Assistance with the assessment of the decision
- Information on further training

## **Berufliches Fortbildungszentrum der Bayerischen Wirtschaft (bfz) | Berufliche Aus- und Weiterbildungen, Unterstützung bei der Vermittlung in Job oder Ausbildung und bei der Integration ins Berufsleben**

 [Viehmarktplatz 9, 85055 Ingolstadt](#)

 [@info-in@bfz.de](mailto:info-in@bfz.de)

 [+49 \(0\) 84198150](tel:+49(0)84198150)

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

### **Professional qualifications: Important information**

The Bavarian State Office for Schools also examines vocational qualifications from abroad. This examination costs money. However, you can apply for a grant. You can find more information here:

 [www.anerkennungszuschuss.de](http://www.anerkennungszuschuss.de)



Three major websites offer information on the recognition of foreign qualifications:

["Anabin"](#) evaluates educational certificates from abroad. Authorities, employers and private individuals use this data.

["Recognition in Germany"](#) helps skilled workers with foreign professional qualifications. They can find out whether they need official recognition.

The ["BQ-Portal"](#) is aimed at chambers and companies. It helps to correctly assess foreign professional qualifications.

### **Information on training, work and study**

Would you like to work in Germany? Then you need to know: How can I work in Germany? And where can I get help? You can find everything you need to know about work and jobs here:

[Access to the labour market](#)

Have you already gained a qualification abroad? For example, a school-leaving qualification or a professional qualification? Then you need to have the qualification recognised here in Germany. You can find out how to do this on the page: [Recognising foreign qualifications](#).

There are over 400 different professions in Germany. Do you want to learn a profession? Then you can find information on [training](#) here. For example: How can I do an apprenticeship? What professions are there?

Children and young people have to go to school. They must be at least 6 years old for this. Children and young people go to [general school](#). There they learn for their future life. For example, so that they can learn a profession. Or: so that they can graduate from a university.

Do you want to study? Then you can find information about [studying](#) here. And you can see which people you can contact.

## Vocational training

### Vocational training in Germany

#### Requirements for vocational training in Germany

If you are not an EU citizen and would like to do vocational training, you will need a visa and a residence permit.

#### How do you get a visa for vocational training?

##### You need a training place

You must conclude a training contract with a school or company. You must present this training contract to the German embassy. In order to do an apprenticeship, you need to have a very good knowledge of German. In most cases, you need language skills at level B1.

##### Your livelihood must be secured for the duration of your stay.

You need at least 992 euros per month (year 2024). You must prove that you have this amount of money or that you are earning this amount during your training.

The following applies to **school education**: You deposit the necessary money in a [blocked account](#). A blocked account is a bank account that you can only access to a limited extent. Another option is a declaration of commitment.

In the case of **company-based vocational training**, you will receive a salary. If the salary is sufficient to finance your life, this can be sufficient proof. If your salary is not sufficient, you can also set up a blocked account or submit a declaration of commitment.

#### How long are you allowed to stay in Germany for vocational training?


Vocational training in Germany lasts at least two years. Your stay will be authorised for the duration of your training.

You may work up to ten additional hours per week. This is independent of your vocational training.

#### **Note for refugees on the 3+2 rule:**

The 3+2 regulation is of interest to rejected asylum seekers. A refugee who has started training in Germany may complete the training. They are then allowed to pursue a two-year subsequent employment. The prerequisite for this is a training contract. The 3+2 rule is not necessary if the asylum decision is positive.

#### Where can you find information on the topics?

Information on the exact visa and entry process in German, English, French and Spanish can be found [at](#) .

Information on completing vocational training in Germany is available in German, English,

French and Spanish  [here](#).

## **Have you successfully completed your vocational training?**


After completing your vocational training, you have twelve months to find work. The job must match your vocational training! A "residence permit to look for a job in accordance with § 20 Para. 3 No. 3 AufenthG" is required for the search. You can apply for this at the [immigration office](#) responsible for you.



While you are looking for a job, you are allowed to work in any occupation in order to secure your livelihood. As soon as you have a job for which you are qualified, apply for a "residence permit for qualified employment (§ 18a AufenthG)". You do not have to leave Germany.

### **Note for refugees on the 3+2 rule:**

If you are a refugee and have a "Ausbildungsduldung", the 3+2 rule applies to you. If you have successfully completed your training, you are entitled to a residence permit for 2 years. During this time, you must work in the profession you have learnt.

## **Where can you find information on the topics?**

Information on your options after completing vocational training is available in German, English, French and Spanish  [here](#).

Information on the 3+2 rule is available in German  [here](#) and in German, English and French  [here](#).

These counselling centres will help you if you need further information:

 [General advice centres](#)

## **Vocational school**

Are you over 15 years old? Are you no longer attending a general school? Then you have many options at a vocational school. You can prepare for a career. You can obtain a general school-leaving certificate.

People in Germany must attend school until the age of 18 (compulsory schooling)!

## **The following school types are available at vocational schools:**

### **Berufseinstiegsjahr (BEJ) and Berufsvorbereitungsjahr (BVJ):**

Vocational schools have programmes for pupils with or without a secondary school leaving certificate. You have not yet received a contract for an apprenticeship? You don't yet have a concrete idea of where you want to work? Here you can gain an insight into various occupational fields. You can build on your secondary school leaving certificate. Or you can obtain your secondary school leaving certificate.

### **Vocational school:**

This is where training takes place in a dual system. You learn part of your training at school. The other part you learn in a company.

### **Vocational school:**

You can prepare for the profession at vocational schools. The courses last 1 to 3 years. You receive basic vocational training. Or vocational preparation. Or even a vocational qualification. Do you already have a school-leaving qualification? Then you can obtain your next qualification here. Vocational schools are generally divided into the following occupational fields:

- commercial field
- Home economics, social pedagogy or care sector
- industrial-technical field

### **Technical college:**

You can continue your vocational training at a technical college. The courses usually last one to two years. Do you already have a vocational qualification? Have you already worked? These courses expand your knowledge. They are designed to consolidate what you have learnt. After the courses, you can work in middle management. Or you can become self-employed. The specialised schools are also divided into the following subject areas:

- Technology
- economics
- Social work
- Agriculture
- Design

### **Vocational colleges:**

You need an intermediate level of education for the vocational college. You can improve your vocational qualifications here. You can also obtain the entrance qualification for universities of applied sciences. This means that you can then go on to university. Vocational colleges are available in the following areas:

- Technology
- Business and administration
- Social pedagogy
- Health and care
- Home economics

### **Vocational secondary school:**

Have you already completed an apprenticeship? Do you have a secondary school leaving certificate? Then you can go to the Berufsoberschule. You go there for two years. This school prepares you for the general higher education entrance qualification. To do this, you must learn a second foreign language. Without a foreign language, you will receive a subject-specific higher education entrance qualification. This means that you are only allowed to study certain subjects. The vocational upper secondary school is available in the following specialisations:

- Technical secondary school

- Secondary business school
- Secondary school for social work

### **Vocational grammar school:**

Would you like to study at a university? Then you need the Abitur. You can catch up on your Abitur at a vocational grammar school. To do this, you need an intermediate qualification in your education. Your average grades must be 3.0 or better. You can then attend a vocational grammar school for three years. After the three years, you will complete your Abitur. It is also divided into corresponding specialisations:

- Technical specialisation
- Economics specialisation
- Social and healthcare sciences
- Agricultural science specialisation
- Biotechnological direction
- Nutritional sciences

### **Vocational training (dual and full-time)**

Would you like to go to work? Then it is very advantageous for you if you have a **professional qualification**. People with a vocational qualification earn more money on average over the course of their lives. They are less likely to be unemployed. They are less likely to have fixed-term employment contracts.

### **Dual training**

Dual vocational training is a speciality in Germany. You work in a company. At the same time, you go to school. This way you learn theory and practice. You spend two thirds of your time working. You spend one third of your time at school. An apprenticeship lasts 3 years. Depending on the profession, it may take a little longer. If you have an Abitur, you can complete the apprenticeship more quickly.

Depending on the type of occupation you would like to learn in a dual training programme, contact the appropriate office:

### **Chamber of Crafts (HWK)**

The Chamber of Crafts (HWK) is responsible for skilled trades. This covers professions such as baker, bricklayer or painter.

[Insert: Address, phone number etc. in the region]

### **Chamber of Industry and Commerce (IHK)**

The Chamber of Industry and Commerce (IHK) is responsible for professions in industrial production, trade and services. This includes, for example, plant mechanics or wholesale and foreign trade clerks.

[Insert: address, telephone number etc. in the region]

## Full-time training at a vocational school

In Germany, there is also full-time school-based training at a vocational school. Vocational schools provide completed vocational training in theory and practice outside the dual training system (without an apprenticeship in a company). It usually lasts two to three and a half years. Lessons take place full-time. In addition to vocational subjects, it also includes general education subjects. The vocational schools differ greatly in terms of their training programmes, admission requirements, duration of training and further education options. You should therefore speak to the school you are interested in.

**[Insert if necessary: Links to overviews of suitable vocational schools in the region]**

## Study

### Study in Germany

### Studying in Germany: Information for foreign students (non-EU citizens) and refugees

### Which universities are there in Germany?

Germany has various universities. They differ in their specialisations:

- **Universities:** Scientists conduct research here. Universities offer many subjects, for example natural sciences, humanities or technology.
- **Universities of Applied Sciences:** Here you mainly learn for practical work. Universities of applied sciences are good if you want to work in a specific profession, for example as an engineer or social worker.
- **Dual universities:** Here you learn theory and do practical work at the same time. You study and work in a company.
- **Art, film and music colleges:** This is about artistic subjects such as art, drama, dance, design, graphics, music or modern media.
- **Distance learning universities:** Here you learn online. This is good if you want to be flexible.

### What degree programmes are there?

- **At universities:** Medicine, law, computer science
- **At universities of applied sciences:** Mechanical engineering, business administration, social pedagogy
- **At dual universities:** e.g. electrical engineering with training in a company

### What types of study programmes and degrees are there?

- **Bachelor:** The first degree at a university, lasts 6 to 8 semesters.
- **Master's degree:** A postgraduate programme after the Bachelor's degree, lasts 2 to 4 semesters.



- **State examination (Staatsexamen):** In subjects such as medicine, law, pharmacy or teaching, there is a state examination.
- **Doctorate (Ph.D.):** After your Master's degree, you can do a doctorate and obtain a doctorate. This is often necessary for an academic career at university.

## Where can I find the right university?

- [University compass](#)
- [Study in Germany](#)
- [Studis Online](#)
- [Employment Agency - Study](#)
- [BAMF - Studying in Germany](#)
- [www.hochschule-dual.de/](http://www.hochschule-dual.de/)

## Who is allowed to study?

Anyone who fulfils the rules can study in Germany. Refugees and foreign students can also apply.

## Important information for people from other countries

If you are not from the EU, you often need a visa or residence permit. This depends on your country.

The university where you would like to study will inform you about the rules.

## What do I need to study?

The rules are different for every degree programme and every university. In most cases you will need

- **A school-leaving qualification** that is recognised in Germany. The university will check this.
- **Good knowledge of German** ([level C1](#)). You will often need the [TestDaF](#) language test.
- **Recognition of your qualifications.** Have your [qualifications checked](#). This often costs money.

## What documents do I need?

- Certificates and translations
- Results of language tests
- Documents about your studies from your country

## Important websites for students:

- [TestAS](#): Test for aptitude for university studies
- [TestDaF](#): Test for German language skills

- [DAAD](#): Information and scholarships for foreign students
- [Anabin](#): Information on the recognition of qualifications
- [Uni-Assist](#): Help with applying to universities

💡 Plan enough time! It often takes a long time for all documents to be checked.

## Counselling and help

The Educational Counselling Guarantee Fund University helps foreign students and refugees. It answers all questions about studying.

Address:

Olgastraße 62  
70182 Stuttgart

 [Educational counselling GFH](#)

## Costs and money



**You must be able to support yourself for the duration of your stay.**

You need at least 992 euros per month (year 2024). You must prove that you have this amount of money or that you earn this amount during your training.

**The following applies to studying:** You deposit the necessary money in a [blocked account](#).

A blocked account is a bank account that you can only access to a limited extent. Another option is a declaration of commitment. Proof of funding is one of the most important requirements for a student visa and a residence permit for the purpose of studying in Germany.

Studying at state universities is often cheap or free of charge. But you still need to budget money:

- Tuition fees: They are different in every federal state. Private universities are often more expensive.
- Living costs: You will need money for accommodation, food, books and leisure time.
- Financial aid: There are scholarships and grants such as BAföG. You can find more information at [www.bafög.de](http://www.bafög.de).

## Language courses to get you started

- [Employment Agency](#): Information about cheap language courses
- [Job centre](#): Cover the costs of language courses (if you fulfil certain requirements)
- Language schools: Many private providers
- Universities: Often language courses at universities
- [University guarantee fund](#): Financial help for language courses

💡 Tip for everyday life: Use language courses to get to know people and learn more about life in Germany!

- You are a graduate of a German university: You can apply for a settlement permit after just two years of working in Germany ([§ 18c Para. 1 S. 2 AufenthG](#)).

Further information

 [Make it in Germany](#)

 [DAAD - Study in Germany - The first steps](#)

 [Study in Germany - Testimonials from international students in Germany](#)

 [Visa Navigator](#)

 [DAAD registration information for international students in Germany](#)

Further information:  [here](#).

For further information you can contact these counselling centres:

 [General Advice Centres](#)

## Study at a university

### General information

There are many different degree programmes in Germany. There are also different types of higher education institutions:

- Universities (academically orientated)
- Universities of Applied Sciences (practice-orientated)
- Dual universities (very practice-orientated)
- Art, film and music colleges (for artistic subjects)

There are state universities and private universities. The quality of private universities is not always better. However, you have to pay high tuition fees.

Helpful websites:

 [University Compass](#) (all degree programmes and universities in Germany)

 [Study in Germany](#) (information for refugees)

 [Employment Agency](#) (study orientation)

 [German Academic Exchange Service](#) (DAAD - all degree programmes in Germany)

### Prerequisites

Would you like to study in Germany? Then you need a university entrance qualification. This can be an Abitur. It can also be an entrance qualification for universities of applied sciences. Have you passed the Abitur in your home country? You may be able to use it to study in Germany. You can have this checked.

You can find more information on the [Anabin](#) website. Go to the information portal "Recognition in Germany". You can also contact the [German Academic Exchange Service DAAD](#).

You must also provide proof that you have a good command of German (language level C1). This can be the "German as a foreign language" test. Or the German language test for university entrance. Or telc Deutsch C1 Hochschule.

There is also the possibility of funding from the Bildungsberatung Garantiefonds Hochschule. Some universities also offer preparatory semesters. You will also learn German there.

💡 Find out more at the university where you would like to study. Most universities offer counselling services. There are deadlines for applying to a university. These are known as application deadlines. Observe these deadlines. Universities will not accept late applications.

## **No university entrance qualification**

You can study in your home country with your school-leaving certificate? But not in Germany? You can catch up on your university entrance qualification at a preparatory college. Studienkollegs are specially designed for foreign applicants. They prepare you for studying in Germany.

## **Funding and scholarship**

As a student in Germany, you can receive financial support. This is possible via the Federal Training Assistance Act (BAföG for short). The BAföG is paid out monthly by the authorities. In the best case scenario, you will receive money for the entire duration of your studies. The monthly amount of BAföG can be between 399 and 735 euros. You have to pay back half of the BAföG amount after your studies. The exact conditions for BAföG change regularly. You can find detailed information under the following link:

🌐 [Website BAföG for refugees and migrants](#)

As an alternative to BAföG, you can apply for a scholarship. As a rule, you do not have to pay back a scholarship. Good grades are important in order to receive a scholarship. Scholarship donors also assess your voluntary work. You will normally receive the same amount of money as BAföG. In addition, there is a so-called "book allowance". This is a monthly payment of up to €300.

Certain organisations award scholarships. Scholarships are awarded to people with great potential. That is why these organisations are called Begabten-Förderungs-Werke. The following Begabten-Förderungs-Werke offer programmes specifically for refugees, among others. You can find out how to apply on their websites. They also tell you what the organisations require of you.

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

🌐 [Böckler-Aktion Bildung of the Hans Böckler Foundation](#)

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

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

### [Bread for the World - Refugee Scholarship Programme](#)


The Otto Benecke Foundation's Guarantee Fund is an exception to this rule. The programme is aimed at young new immigrants. Do you want to gain your higher education entrance qualification in Germany? Do you want to study in Germany? Do you want to work in the academic field? Then you can apply for the scholarship programme. There is also the Germany Scholarship. It provides financial support of €300 per month. The Germany Scholarships are awarded by the respective universities.

### [University Guarantee Fund of the Otto Benecke Foundation in Bonn](#)


### [Germany Scholarship: Become a scholarship holder](#)

## For employers


**Accelerated skilled worker procedure:** Employers need power of attorney for skilled workers. That means you can initiate an accelerated skilled worker procedure. You can do this at the responsible Immigration Office (Ausländerbehörde). The company makes an agreement with the Immigration Office. Everyone involved agrees on what employers, the skills workers and the authorities are allowed and required to do. The agreement describes the procedure, including who is involved and deadlines.

 The **fees** are 411 euros. There is an additional visa fee of 75 euros. There may be other fees to pay (certified copies, translations).

**The Immigration Office advises employers.** It provides support so that foreign qualifications of skilled workers can be recognised. The Immigration Office gets approval from the Federal Employment Agency (Bundesagentur für Arbeit). It checks what is required in order for the visa to be granted. The certification bodies only have a certain amount of time to make their decision. The same is true for the Federal Employment Agency.

 Have all the **requirements** been met? Then the Immigration Office will issue something called a preliminary approval (Vorabzustimmung). The employer can pass this on to the skilled worker. The skilled worker then books an appointment with the diplomatic mission abroad. At this appointment, they will apply for a visa. At this appointment, the skilled worker must present the original preliminary approval. They must also bring the other documents required for the visa application.

Have you submitted the full **visa application** for the skilled worker? Then the decision will be made within three weeks.

 The **family** of the skilled worker can also be taken into account. The application for them must be made at the same time. The family must meet the requirements for family reunification.

## EU Blue Card Germany

**The EU Blue Card is a residence permit for university graduates.**

It is intended to facilitate and promote the immigration of highly qualified people from non-EU countries to Germany.

It also allows simplified immigration to all other EU countries.

### **You need a visa to work in Germany:**

- You apply for this visa at the German embassy or the German consulate general.
- You can enter Germany with this visa.

You can apply for an EU Blue Card at the Foreigners' Registration Office in Germany.


### **There are several requirements for obtaining an EU Blue Card:**



- You must have a completed university degree.
- The university degree must be recognised in Germany.
- You need an employment contract. Or you need a binding job confirmation.
- Your minimum annual gross salary must be **58,400** euros.
- There are exceptions in the professional fields of mathematics, computer science, natural sciences, engineering and human medicine.
- These must have a minimum annual gross salary of **45,552 euros**.
- The salary limits are adjusted annually.
- The employment must correspond to the university qualification.
- The EU Blue Card is a temporary residence permit.
  - It is issued for a maximum of four years.
  - If the employment relationship lasts less than four years, the EU Blue Card is issued for the duration of the employment contract plus three months.

💡 The status of the information is from **2023**.

💡 **An EU Blue Card can be applied for in all EU member states with the exception of Denmark and Ireland. There are slight differences in terms of the requirements.**

You must apply for an EU Blue Card at the immigration authority.

💡 You can find more information in German about applying for the EU Blue Card in Ingolstadt  [here](#).

💡 You can find more information in German and English about the EU Blue Card  [here](#) or  [here](#).