

First Steps in Kaufbeuren

Comprehensive information on living and working in Germany can be found in several languages at the following links:

■ [Make it in Germany](#)

■ [EURES European Job Mobility Portal](#)

Finding a place to live in Kaufbeuren

Finding an apartment, flat, or house in Kaufbeuren can be very difficult. There are too few of them, and most are expensive. For that reason officially certified asylum seekers are allowed to stay in the temporary accommodations provided for them until they have found a more permanent abode. Nevertheless, for the duration of their search they must register as looking for appropriate housing.

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

Telephone and Internet

You will find telephone and Internet information [here](#).

An overview of free WiFi (WLAN) hotspots can be found ■ [here](#).

Registration in Kaufbeuren

After moving into an apartment or house, you must register with the Bürgerbüro, literally "Citizens' Office" but more broadly a municipal office for communal affairs, within two weeks. Families with minors and the same previous and future dwellings should use a common registration form; it is sufficient when one of the persons obliged to register signs the form. The obligation to register persons under the age of sixteen lies with those adults into whose dwelling the person under sixteen has moved.

Prerequisites

The actual occupancy of the new abode, which is used either permanently or with a certain regularity as a place for living and sleeping.

Deadlines

Registration or, as the case may be, a change in registration must be made within two weeks of moving in.

Required documentation

A passport and/or identity card for verification of identity and change of address. In the registration of foreigners from outside the EU, the valid electronic residence permit must be presented with the passport if the residence permit does not appear in the passport itself.

Written confirmation by the owner or landlord with the following details:
name and address of the owner or landlord
type of obligatory registration process with the move-in or move-out date
address of the dwelling
names of all persons/family members required to register

For further information regarding registration in Kaufbeuren, please log on to the following:

■ [Further Information regarding Registration in Kaufbeuren](#) (Weitere Informationen zur Anmeldung in Kaufbeuren)

Opening a bank account

In order to **receive and transfer money** you will need a bank account. You can conclude a contract (a mobile-phone contract, for example) only if you have a bank account. You must open a bank account. This type of account is called Girokonto, which means current account or checking account. You must go to the bank and explain to the advisory staff member: "Ich möchte ein Bankkonto eröffnen (I would like to open a bank account)." You must have a valid passport or some other valid form of identification with you.

With a Girokonto, you can

transfer money
receive money
use direct debiting (Lastschriftverfahren) -- money is automatically debited
cash checks
pay for purchases using a card instead of cash (i.e. coins and paper money)
withdraw money at an ATM
print out your bank statements

■ [Further information on opening a bank account](#)

Health Insurance

In Germany, everyone must have health insurance.

You must get health insurance if

you have been living in Germany as an asylum seeker for more than 15 months,

or: have a residence permit,

or: have a job (subject to social insurance contributions).

If you are an asylum seeker who has been in Germany for less than 15 months, you will receive a Krankenbehandlungsschein (health treatment certificate) every quarter from the "[Abteilung Arbeit und Soziales](#)" (Labor and Social Affairs Department). For dental treatment you will need the Zahnarztbehandlungsschein (dental treatment certificate).

■ [Further information on health insurance](#) and in the [health section](#)

Driver's licenses

Your foreign driver's license is **still valid for six months** after entry. After six months you must obtain a German driver's license. To do this you may have to attend a driving school and then pass a theoretical and practical test. For the tests you will have to have proof of your identity. Please ask whether you will be allowed to take the test without previously registering at a driving school. You will have to pay for the driving school. Before you enroll, please inquire about the costs. You must have your driver's license with you whenever you are operating a vehicle.

For **EU citizens** the driver's license is still valid after six months ([please see exceptions](#)).

Please note: Anyone driving with a license which has expired under the laws of the issuing country or under German law will be prosecuted as driving without a license.

■ [Further information on driver's licenses in German, English, French, and Spanish](#)