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## Legal matters

### Ausländerbehörde (Immigration Office)

#### What does the Immigration Office do?

The Immigration Office is responsible for **measures relating to the right of residence** and, in part, the **right of holding a passport**.

#### For example:

- Granting or extending a residence permit
- Granting a settlement permit
- Issuing or extending residence permits
- Apply for a work permit
- Changing or removing residence requirements
- Offering advice on a person's voluntary departure
- Issuing an employment permit
- The resolution of problem situations (e.g. lost or stolen passport)

The "Ausländerbehörden" (Immigration Office) are also responsible for the execution of any decisions terminating a person's stay in the country and any negative asylum decisions made by the BAMF.

Depending on where you live in the district, a specific Bureau for Foreigners (Ausländerbehörde) is responsible for you.

There are separate Immigration Offices (Ausländerbehörde) in the following municipalities:

- **Bretten**
- **Bruchsal** (you can [make an appointment online](#) here)
- **Ettlingen**
- **Karlsruhe**
- **Rheinstetten**
- **Stutensee**
- **Waghäusel**

#### For all other municipalities:

- **[District Office \(Landratsamt\) Karlsruhe](#)**  
Here the [appointment booking](#) is explained in the district office.

Please contact the [Immigration Office responsible](#) for you with your request.

The [information system of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees](#) also provides you with contact details of the “Ausländerbehörden” (Immigration Office) in your place of residence, as well as contact and advice centres for integration work, and information on planned and ongoing integration courses.

If you enter the details of your place of residence and the desired radius in the quick search function and click on “Search”, you will receive a list of all integration facilities in your vicinity.

## Asylum applied for – what now?

### asylum procedure

The BAMF has compiled a lot of information for you [hier v](#) . [Hier](#) you can find a film that explains the procedure.

The next steps are explained here:

### 1. Personal asylum application

You submit your asylum application to the **Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)** .

**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 [Sozialarbeiter/Ihre Sozialarbeiterin](#) .



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

A few days before your first appointment (asylum application, first interview) or your second appointment (hearing, second interview), go to your social worker at the accommodation with

your documents.

When you have your first interview at the BAMF, please remember to bring enough food with you. There may be longer waiting times.

As long as you are in the asylum procedure, you have a residence permit.



### 3. Personal hearing

The second interview is the actual hearing. The BAMF decides on your asylum application. It then sends you a **decision** (Bescheid) . Show the decision to [Sozialarbeiter/Ihrer Sozialarbeiterin](#) . They will explain to you what the BAMF has decided and what steps you can take.

#### Decisions of the BAMF (Federal Office for Migration and Refugees)

#### The official notice (Bescheid) from the BAMF

Some time after your BAMF hearing, you will receive a notice in the mail. It will tell you the decision regarding your asylum process.

#### There are various forms of protection:

- **Right of asylum - Article 16a of the Basic Law (GG):** Residence permit for 3 years, settlement permit after 3 or 5 years possible if conditions are met (e.g. living costs are largely secured, specific German language skills), unlimited access to the labour market, entitlement to privileged family reunion
- **Granting asylum/refugee status § 3 German Asylum Law (AsylG):** Residence permit for 3 years, thereafter extension under certain circumstances, settlement permit possible after 3 or 5 years if further requirements are met (e.g. living costs are largely secured,

specific German language skills), unlimited access to the labour market, entitlement to privileged family reunion)

- **Granting subsidiary protection § 4 German Asylum Law (AsylG):** Residence permit for 1 year, with an extension for every 2 additional years, settlement permit after 5 years possible if further requirements are met (e.g. securing livelihood and sufficient German language skills), unlimited access to the labour market, self-employment only after approval, no entitlement to privileged family reunion
- **Determination of a national ban on deportation § 60 (5) and (7) Residence Act (AufenthG):** Residence permit for 1 year, thereafter extension possible under certain circumstances, settlement permit after 5 years possible if further requirements are met (e.g. securing livelihood, sufficient German language skills), employment possible with permission from the "Ausländerbehörde" (Immigration Office)

## **An asylum application was rejected? There are two types of rejection:**

1. The asylum application is **rejected** as **inadmissible** because another country is responsible for processing the asylum application (**Dublin procedure**). This is the case if you have already applied for asylum in a different country or had your fingerprints taken there. Deportation to this country is threatened (e.g. Italy).
2. The asylum application is **rejected (national procedure)**. Deportation to your country of origin will be imposed.

In these two cases, you are **legally obliged to leave** Germany and must leave again. As long as your deportation is not possible, you will be granted a "[Duldung](#)" (discretionary leave to remain) under certain circumstances. Discretionary leave to remain is **not a residence permit**. The Karlsruhe Regional Commission decides who receives an exceptional leave to remain. They also oversee and carry out deportation.

## **What can I do if I don't want to be deported but have no more opportunities to stay in Germany?**

If you decide to [leave voluntarily](#), you can get financial support for your new start in your home country.

## **benefits under the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act**

**Asylum seekers and persons with tolerated status** receive **benefits from the district office in accordance with the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act**.

The benefits are available to those who have too little income and assets to be able to live here

### **You receive:**

- pocket money and an additional amount for food, clothing and healthcare
- Insurance in case of illness
- costs of housing and heating

- Services for Education and Participation

**Important: Your own assets, your own money or help from your family must always be used first!**



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



[e-mail](#)



Landratsamt Karlsruhe  
Amt für Integration  
Kriegsstraße 100  
76133 Karlsruhe

## Moving into the district of Karlsruhe

### EU migrants

### EU migrants

If you are a citizen of a member state of the EU, you can, in principle, enter Germany legally and live and work there (**Freedom of Movement Act (Freizügigkeitsgesetz)/EU**). You must then register at the “Einwohnermeldeamt” (residents' registration office) responsible for you at (located in the local community/city hall). You will need a **valid identity card or a valid passport** from your country of origin.

**Note:** If you do not work, you may not be entitled to social benefits in Germany for the first 5 years of your stay. Here, it is important that you make an appointment with the [Job Centre](#).

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

A brochure of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) in German, English and other languages can be found [here](#).

### Late repatriates

### Late repatriates (Spätaussiedler)

After you have received your entry form in your country of origin, you may enter Germany. There you will be assigned to a district by the Federal Administrative Office in Friedland (for example, the district of Karlsruhe) and accommodated by it if you cannot find a private apartment.

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

You can find a Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) brochure in German and Russian [here](#).

### Third country nationals who have fled their country

## Third country nationals who have fled their country (Geflüchtete Drittstaatsangehörige)

### Asylum procedure (Asylverfahren)

After you have filed an asylum application, you will be assigned to a district or city district (e.g. the district of Karlsruhe).

The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) decides on the asylum application.

On the BAMF website, you will find more detailed information about the [asylum procedure](#) (also multilingual) and the [procedure of the asylum procedure](#).

Information on the asylum procedure is also available at [here in the app](#).

You will initially be accommodated in a shared accommodation facility operated by the district of Karlsruhe. There you will be supported by [social workers](#).

You must also register with the municipal or city administration and have your current address entered in your [residence permit](#).

### Notification (Bescheid)

Some time after your BAMF hearing, you will receive a notice in the mail. It will tell you the decision regarding your asylum process. Present the notification to your [social worker](#). Further information on this can be found at ["Decisions of the BAMF"](#).

### residency requirement

### Residence requirement ( Residenzpflicht )/ spatial restriction

#### For whom and for how long does the residency requirement apply?

If you have applied for asylum as an asylum seeker, your stay will initially be restricted to the (urban or rural) district of the immigration office in which the reception facility responsible for you is located. This spatial restriction is also known as the residency requirement.

The spatial restriction **expires** if you stay for more than **three months**

- allowed,
- tolerated or
- permitted to stay in Germany.

**However**, this does not apply if you are still obliged to live in the reception facility responsible for your admission.

It may happen that people from so-called [safe countries of origin](#) or with little prospect of staying in the country are required to remain in the country until their asylum application is decided.

Your asylum application is rejected as “obviously unfounded”? Then the residency requirement applies even until you leave the country.

## **Am I allowed to leave the designated area for appointments, trips, visits?**

This restriction does not apply to appointments with authorities and courts.

For other occasions, however, you will need permission from the [immigration authority responsible for you](#).

For example:

- for visiting the sick
- for visits by refugee organizations
- for weddings
- in the event of a death
- etc.

**Note** : A written invitation from the person you want to visit can help you obtain permission.

**Please note** : If you leave your restricted area without permission, you will be fined. If you repeat the offense, you may even face a prison sentence of up to one year.

## **Residence requirement (Wohnsitzauflage)**

### **Residence requirement (Wohnsitzauflage)**

A residence requirement determines where refugees must live (district, municipality or even flat). This is added to the identity document.

### **To whom does the residence requirement apply?**

- To asylum seekers with a residence permit
- To persons with a residence permit ⇒ 3 years
- To persons with exceptional leave to remain who are unable to earn their own living
- To persons from Ukraine who have been displaced by war

### **Is relocation possible?**

The residence requirement may be cancelled if you move to another location

- Start vocational training or a degree programme
- can take up an employment relationship subject to social insurance contributions and
- The workplace is located at an **unreasonable** distance from the previous place of residence. This is assumed for distances of **2 hours** or more **per journey**.

Important:

- The employment must last longer than three months.



- The weekly working time must be at least 15 hours.
- The net income must be above the SGB II rate for standard needs, accommodation and heating.

In other words: You must be able to support yourself.

The residence requirement can also be cancelled for **family reasons**.

**Applications to change the residence requirement for tolerated persons / cancellation of the residence requirement for asylum seekers must be submitted to the responsible immigration authority.**

The Immigration Office at the destination of the move must approve as well.

**You will need the following documents:**

- The application
- A copy of the employment contract/training contract or a written confirmation of employment (the probationary period must be over)
- Copies of the last three wage/salary slips
- For municipal residents: a certificate from the municipal administration stating that there are no rent arrears or outstanding debts
- The rental agreement for the flat (with ancillary costs) or the landlord's/landlady's certificate of the total costs of the intended new flat

**Please note: Do not sign the new tenancy agreement until the immigration office at your destination has approved the move!**

**TIP:** Without moving, apply for cancellation of the residence requirement if you can support yourself. That's the easiest way!

## **Documents for Refugees**

You come from a country outside the European Union (EU?)

Then you need a residence permit in Germany.

You may only work if your residence permit allows it.

If you want to change your job or employer, you must first apply to the immigration office.

### **Temporary Residence Permit (Aufenthaltsgestattung)**

### **Temporary residence permit (Aufenthaltsgestattung)**

**Duration:** Time-limited

**Status:** Asylum seekers

**Background:** Issued to foreigners who have officially applied for asylum at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF), until their application has been considered. This is NOT a residence permit!

The asylum seeker's identity document contains conditions relating to employment, housing situation and territorial restrictions.

The [Agentur für Arbeit \(Federal Employment Agency\)](#) is responsible for the placement in work.

If a work permit is necessary, it can be obtained from the ["Ausländerbehörde" \(Immigration Office\)](#) of your place of residence. To do this, you must fill in applications with the help of your employer. Your [social worker](#) will help you to fill it in.

These are the applications:

[Job description](#)

[Declaration on the employment relationship](#)

If you do not work, you will receive benefits according to the [Asylum Seekers Benefits Act](#).

### **Discretionary leave to remain (§60a)**

### **Discretionary leave to remain (§ 60a)**

**Duration:** Time-limited

**Status:** Foreigner with discretionary leave to remain

**Background:** Negative asylum decision, obligation to leave the country

A "Duldung" is a temporary postponement of deportation and is not legal residence. This document is only granted if deportation is impossible for legal, practical, humanitarian or personal reasons at the moment.

A work permit is generally required. It is applied for at the "Ausländerbehörde" (Immigration Office) in your place of residence. Here too, you must fill in applications (see above) with the help of your employer. Your [social worker](#) will help you.

The [Agentur für Arbeit \(Federal Employment Agency\)](#) is responsible for the placement in work.

### **Toleration for persons with unclear identity (§ 60b)**

### **Toleration for persons with unclear identity (§ 60b) ( Duldung )**

**Duration:** limited

**Status:** tolerated

**Background:** The toleration permit is granted when a person is to be deported but this is not possible. Reasons may be, for example, that the identity has not been clarified or the person does not help to clarify their identity and obtain a passport.

Important things that always apply:

- work ban and residence requirement
- reduction in benefits
- In most cases, there is a residency requirement. This means that the person must stay in a certain place. If deportation is possible within the next three months, preventive detention may also be required.

**Please note:**

- The time with this toleration is NOT counted towards possible residence permits or for applications for a training toleration or an employment toleration.
- If the person does cooperate and clarifies his or her identity, he or she will again receive a "normal" toleration permit in accordance with § 60a AufenthG.

If you are considering returning to your home country, you can contact the [return counseling service](#) .

## **Training tolerance (§ 60c)**

### **Training tolerance (§ 60c)**

#### **How long is the toleration valid?**

If someone receives this toleration, he or she is allowed to stay in Germany for the entire duration of their training.

#### **What happens after the training?**

If the person successfully completes the training, they may be able to obtain a full residence permit. However, certain rules must be met.

#### **Who can get this permission?**

- People who are tolerated (Section 60a of the Residence Act) and who have already started training during the asylum procedure.
- People who have been granted a toleration permit and want to begin training. However, they must have had a toleration permit under Section 60a for at least three months.

#### **How do you get a training permit?**

You have to submit a training contract to the regional council. Then you have to submit further documents to the immigration office.

### **Requirements:**

- The training must be recognized: it must take place in a profession that the state recognizes as proper training.
- The training must last at least two years.
- If the training is for a helper, it must be possible to pursue further training in a relevant profession afterward. Furthermore, a place for this second training must already have been confirmed. For example, in geriatric care or nursing.
- The training must be officially registered. This is done by certain bodies, such as the Chamber of Industry and Commerce (IHK) or the Chamber of Skilled Crafts (HWK).

- [clarified identity](#)

Sometimes it's not possible to prove exactly who you are. However, if you've done everything possible to prove your identity, you may still be able to get permission to attend the training.

Whether this will actually work is decided by an important authority – the regional council.

An [entry-level qualification \(EQ\)](#) doesn't qualify you for a training permit. However, an EQ, a longer internship in a company, still offers advantages: preparation for vocational training and the opportunity to take an accompanying language course!

## **Employment tolerance § 60d**

### **Employment tolerance § 60d**

**Duration:** 30 months

**Status:** applies only to persons who entered the country before 01.08.2018; also applies to spouses or life partners and unmarried minor children living in the family

**Perspective:** after 30 months a residence permit according to § 25b Abs. 1 AufenthG can be issued if the requirements are met.

### **Requirements:**

- 12 months in possession of a toleration certificate (60a, NOT 60b!)
- Employment subject to social insurance for at least 18 months and
- regular weekly working hours of at least 35 hours for at least 18 months (at least 20 hours for single parents) and living expenses secured by employment for at least 12 months + Employment currently and still secured
- German A2 oral
- no conviction for intentional crime
- no relations to extremist or terrorist organisations
- no deportation order and no deportation order according to § 58a AufenthG
- successful completion of the integration course of the applicant or the spouse, if one was obliged to do so
- Proof of school attendance of minor children
- [clarified identity](#)

## **Opportunity right of residence (§ 104c AufenthG)**

With the right to residence by opportunity, a new option for long-term residence has been introduced for tolerated persons who have been in Germany for a long time:

This allows tolerated persons to obtain a temporary residence permit for 18 months under certain conditions.

Within the 18 months, the necessary requirements for a right of residence according to § 25b AufenthG (in the case of sustainable integration) or § 25a AufenthG (in the case of well-integrated young people and young adults) must be fulfilled in order to obtain a longer

permit for remaining in Germany.

### Requirements for the right of residence

- On 31 October 2022, uninterrupted residence for at least 5 years with toleration, permission or a residence permit (i.e. entry by 31/10/2017 at the latest). "Uninterrupted" means that you must not have left the federal territory in the meantime.
- There must be no previous convictions with 50 or more daily sentences (general offences) or 90 or more daily sentences (offences under asylum/residence law)
- No repeated wilful misrepresentation or deception about identity or nationality, thereby preventing deportation
- [Commitment to the free democratic basic order](#)

The tolerated person must apply for the residence permit at the responsible immigration office. Tolerated persons will receive further information there. An application for an opportunity stay can be submitted by the end of 2025 at the latest. An informal application is sufficient. Samples can be found on the website of the Baden-Württemberg Refugee Council.

The opportunity stay cannot be extended. If, after 18 months, the person concerned is unable to fulfil the requirements for the granting of a residence permit in accordance with §§ 25a/25b AufenthG, they will again receive a tolerated stay. The requirements for toleration will then be re-examined.

You can find out what happens after the right of residence expires here:

[Granting residence to well-integrated adolescents and young adults \(§25 a\)](#)

[Residence permit for sustainable integration](#) (§25 b)

### Granting of residence for well-integrated young people and young adults (§25 a)

#### Requirements for §25a right of residence

In order to obtain a residence permit under Section 25a, the following conditions must be met:

- **In Germany for 3 years** – You must have lived here for at least 3 years, either with a permit, tolerated status, or with a residence permit. Short breaks (up to 3 months) are possible. A "Opportunity Stay" also counts as one of these.
- **School or training** – You must have successfully attended school or obtained a recognized school or vocational qualification within the last 3 years.
- **Age** – You must be between 14 and 26 years old when you apply.
- **Valid passport and verified identity** – You must have a valid passport and your identity must be verified.
- **Good integration in Germany** – You are expected to remain in Germany permanently and be well integrated. This includes, for example:
  1. A successful school or training qualification
  2. Good knowledge of German
  3. Social contacts and activities, e.g., in clubs

4. A permanent residence

- **No serious crimes** – You must not have any previous convictions exceeding 50 daily rates or more than 90 daily rates under the Residence Act.
- **No grounds for exclusion** – you must not have violated any rules, for example:

1. Abuse of social benefits
2. Measures to terminate your stay are pending against you
3. You come from a safe country of origin
4. Her identity is unknown
5. They have links to terrorist organizations

### **What happens next?**

The residence permit is initially granted for three years and can then be extended. Following this, a settlement permit or permanent EU residence permit can be applied for. If the prior residence period and all other requirements for naturalization are met, naturalization can be applied for directly from the residence permit.

The spouse, life partner and minor unmarried children living with a beneficiary in a family community shall be granted a residence permit once the beneficiary has reached the required period of residence.

### **Granting of residence in the case of sustainable integration (§25 b)**

#### **Requirements for §25 b**

You can obtain this residence permit if you:

- Have been in Germany for 6 years with a permit, toleration, or permission (4 years if you live in a household with a minor child OR have been in possession of an employment toleration under Section 60d of the Residence Act OR a residence permit for 30 months).
- Earn enough money or be able to earn enough money soon (there are exceptions in some cases).
- Be able to speak German well. Or have successfully completed four years of school, completed an apprenticeship, or completed a degree. (Note: There is no specific A2 language test.)
- Have passed the "Living in Germany" exam (part of the integration course).
- Have a valid passport and your identity is verified.
- You are well integrated in Germany. This means, for example, that you have a school or vocational qualification. You speak good German. You have friends or are active in a club. You have a permanent residence.
- Have no previous convictions exceeding 50 daily rates or 90 daily rates under the Residence Act.
- No reasons for failure (benefit abuse, measures terminating residence, safe country of origin, unclear identity, connection to terrorist organizations).
- You have children and they go to school. You need proof of this.

### **What happens next?**

The residence permit is initially granted for three years and can then be extended. Following this, a settlement permit or permanent EU residence permit can be applied for. If the prior residence period and all other requirements for naturalization are met, naturalization can be applied for directly from the residence permit.

The spouse, life partner and minor unmarried children living with a beneficiary in a family community shall be granted a residence permit once the beneficiary has reached the required period of residence.

### **Fictitious certificate**

A fictitious certificate is a special document you receive when the immigration authorities have not yet decided whether you can stay in Germany. This can happen if:

- Important documents are missing
- The file is not there yet and must first be requested
- The electronic residence permit (eAT) is not yet available

If you have a permit to stay in Germany but it's about to expire, you can apply for an extension in good time. This allows you to stay and work here until the authorities make a decision.

If you apply to extend your permit in time, you will be allowed to stay in Germany for the time being – even if you don't receive a separate certificate of fiction. However, if the authorities decide that you are not allowed to stay, you will have to leave – even if the certificate is still valid.

### **Important**

While waiting for the authorities' decision, you may only continue working in the jobs you were previously permitted to do. If you wish to take up a new job, you must first obtain permission from the immigration authorities.

### **For people with completed training:**

If you have successfully completed your training and would like to continue working in your profession, but with a new employer, you should apply for an extension of your work permit early.

To ensure prompt processing, you should submit the following documents:

- A confirmation of your new employment relationship
- If necessary, a copy of your employment contract
- Payroll

This way, the permit can be granted more quickly and your stay and work permit can be extended without delay.

### **Notice**

As soon as the immigration authorities have entered into their system that your stay has been extended, your residence permit is officially extended. This applies even if the new electronic residence permit (eAT) is only applied for and issued at a later date at the Federal Printing Office.

## Residence permit

Here you will find an overview of the seven residence permits in Germany

Do you have questions? The Ministry of the Interior answers frequently asked questions [here](#).

On the [Baden-Württemberg service portal](#) you will find:

- further basic information
- Online application forms
- Explanations of the procedure
- a list of the necessary documents and costs

Has your residence permit expired? [Here](#) 's a leaflet with important information.

### Visa (only for entry into Germany)

### Visa (only for entry into Germany) (Visum)

**Duration:** Limited in time

**Group of people:** Nationals of a member state of the European Union can enter Germany without a visa. Foreigners from other countries of origin almost all require a visa.

## Residence permit

### Residence permit ( Aufenthaltserlaubnis )

A residence permit can be granted for various reasons. For example, for family reasons, because you need protection, or if you have been granted asylum.

**Duration:** limited

The residence permit is not permanent; it has an expiration date. It is **always restricted to a specific purpose**.

The residence permit allows you to live legally in Germany. Later, you may be able to obtain a **permanent permit** . This means you can stay in Germany permanently (settlement permit).

With some residence permits, you can work in Germany without special permission. You don't need a separate permit from the employment agency.

Other residence permits don't allow you to work immediately. In these cases, the employment agency must first approve your application. The immigration office will then ask them whether you are permitted to work. Your residence permit states exactly how much and where you are permitted to work.

### EU Blue Card

### EU Blue Card



### How long is the Blue Card valid?

If someone has a job that has no time limit, the person with the Blue Card can stay for up to 4 years.

If the job is only for a specific period of time, the person can stay as long as the contract lasts – plus 3 months extra.

### Who can get the Blue Card?

The Blue Card is only for well-trained professionals. These are people who have studied and graduated from a university – either in Germany or in another country, if the qualification is comparable.

With the Blue Card, people from countries outside the EU are allowed to work in the EU – but only in a job that matches their training.

### Requirements:

- Specific job offer that matches the qualification
- Permit to practice the profession (for [regulated professions](#) )
- Salary thresholds for the EU Blue Card in regular and shortage occupations: A minimum salary of 45.3% of the annual contribution assessment ceiling in pension insurance (in 2023: 39,682.80 euros) applies for shortage occupations and career starters, and 50% (in 2023: around 43,800 euros) for all other occupations.
- Career starters: Foreign academics who have earned a university degree within the last three years can receive an EU Blue Card if their job in Germany generates a minimum salary of 45.3% of the annual pension insurance contribution assessment ceiling (€39,682.80 in 2023). This applies to both shortage and regular occupations.
- IT specialists : IT specialists can obtain an EU Blue Card if they do not have a university degree but can demonstrate at least three years of comparable professional experience. In this case, the lower salary threshold for shortage occupations applies (45.3% of the annual contribution assessment ceiling; in 2023: €39,682.80).

**After 33 months (A1 oral), holders of an EU Blue Card can obtain a permanent residence permit.** If language skills are already at level B1, a permanent residence permit can be issued after just 21 months.

You can find out more [here](#) and [here](#) .

## ICT card

### ICT card ( ICT-Karte )

#### How long is it valid?

The card is valid for a limited time.

#### Who is it for?

This card is for people who aren't from Europe and are temporarily sent to Germany by their company. But not everyone can get it!

#### Who is allowed to use it?

Only certain employees of the company are allowed to work in Germany:

- management
- Specialists
- Trainees

## Mobile ICT Card

### Mobile ICT Card (Mobile-ICT-Karte)

**Duration:** Limited in time

**Group of persons:** Third-country nationals who already hold a residence permit in accordance with the ICT Directive for an EU Member State and are planning a longer stay (over 90 days) in Germany can apply for a separate residence permit, the Mobile ICT Card.

This applies only when the person becomes a manager, specialist or trainee.

### Permission for permanent residence - EU

### Permission for permanent residence - EU (Erlaubnis zum Daueraufenthalt - EU)

**Duration:** Unlimited

**Group of people:** Third-country nationals are entitled to be granted a settlement permit (§ 9a AufenthG) if they have been in possession of a residence permit for five years and fulfil the other legal requirements for a settlement permit.

### Settlement permit

### Settlement permit (§9 AufenthG)

**Duration:** unlimited, Validity of eAT (electronic residence permit) corresponds to passport duration

Entitled to any gainful employment, including self-employment.

#### Requirements:

- Third-country nationals who have been staying in Germany for five years continuously with a residence permit
- Livelihood (livelihood security) (current and forecast for the future)
- 60 months of pension insurance contributions
- Language skills, level B1, AE granted before 01.01.2005: only oral A1 skills required
- Knowledge of the legal and frameworks (orientation course)
- Sufficient living space (for each family member over six years of age, a living space of at least 12 m<sup>2</sup> must be proven. For each family member between two and six years, 10m<sup>2</sup> should be sufficient; children from 0-2 are not included)

(Your **livelihood is secure** if you can cover your living expenses and sufficient health insurance coverage **without having to draw on public funds (e.g. SGB II benefits, social security benefits, basic income support, social assistance)**.

Your livelihood is not secured at present if you claim for (top-up) benefits to secure your livelihood according to the SGB II (Social Security Code II). Whether the benefits are actually claimed is irrelevant.)

## **Special standard:**

### **Settlement permit (§ 26 (3) AufenthG) for persons entitled to asylum and refugees according to the Geneva Refugee Convention**

**After three years, the settlement permit is issued if the following conditions are met:**

- The German language has been "mastered" (C1)
- Livelihood is predominantly secured (min. 75%)
- The BAMF has not informed the Federal Ministry of Education and Research in accordance with § 73 (2a) of the Asylum Act that the prerequisites for revocation or withdrawal are met
- Basic knowledge of the legal and social frameworks and living conditions in the Federal Republic of Germany (orientation test)
- Sufficient living space (see above)

**After 5 years, the settlement permit is issued if the following conditions are met:**

- Sufficient knowledge of the German language (A2)
- Livelihood is predominantly secured (min. 51%)
- No conditions for revocation or withdrawal of the asylum decision exist
- Orientation course
- Sufficient living space (see above)

## **Costs**

113.00 EUR

Settlement permit for self-employed persons: 124.00 EUR

Settlement permit for highly qualified persons: 147.00 EUR

Note: Special regulations apply to minors.

## **How do you obtain a settlement permit?**

You must apply for a settlement permit in writing to the immigration authority .

You will receive the settlement permit in the form of a cheque card with additional electronic functions (electronic residence permit - eAT)

## **additional residence permits (for young people)**

## **Residence permit for well-integrated young people and adolescents (Section 25a of the Residence Act)**

Some young people are allowed to stay in Germany if they have settled in well. Certain rules apply:

### **Requirements**

- They are between 14 and 21 years old.
- You have lived in Germany for at least 4 years without interruption.
- You have been successfully attending school or completing an apprenticeship for four years. Or you have completed your school-leaving or vocational qualification in Germany.

## **Can parents and underage siblings also obtain a residence permit?**

**Yes, this is possible if:**

- The young person applying is under 18 years of age.
- The family's livelihood is secured (i.e. without help from the state).
- The deportation was not deliberately delayed.

## **Residence permit for sustainable integration (Section 25b of the Residence Act)**

This residence permit can be granted to people without a permanent residence permit (tolerated persons) if they are well integrated in Germany.

### **Requirements**

- You have lived in Germany for at least 8 years – if you have minor children, a stay of 6 years is sufficient.
- You can earn most of your living yourself, i.e. through work.
- You speak German at level A2, orally.
- You have basic knowledge of life in Germany, for example, through the "Living in Germany" test. This includes knowledge of the laws, society, and daily life.

## **Residence permit**

Information and requirements for applying for a settlement permit can be found [here](#).

**Please note:** To apply for the respective residence permit, please contact the relevant immigration office.

The relevant advisory services will help you fill out the application: [Social Counselling/Integration Management](#) , [Youth Migration Service](#) , [Migration Counselling for Adults](#)

## **Clarification of identity**

## You came to Germany without a passport?

The authorities in Germany need to know who you are.  
You would like to know:

- What is your name
- When you were born
- Which country you come from

This is called identity. To prove your identity, you need documents. The best option is a passport from your home country.

If you do not have a passport, you can also show other documents – for example:

- an ID card
- a birth certificate
- a driver's license

In Germany, all foreign nationals must have a passport (Section 3 of the Residence Act):  
“Foreign nationals may only enter or stay in the federal territory if they have a recognized and valid passport or passport substitute, unless they are exempt from the passport requirement by legal regulation.”

If you don't have a passport, you must try to get one. Importantly, you must help so that a passport can be obtained.

If you help out well, the immigration authorities can take this into account positively later – for example, when deciding whether you can stay.

## Obligations to cooperate

**General duty to cooperate (Section 15 of the Asylum Act): “The foreigner is personally obliged to cooperate in clarifying the facts of the case.”**

**See also Section 82 of the Residence Act (cooperation of the foreigner).**

### What does that mean?

You must help the authorities obtain the correct information about you. To do this, the following applies:

- You must say your name, when you were born and which country you come from – first verbally, later also in writing.
- You must show your passport if you have one. You must also hand it over if the authorities request it.
- You must show other important documents if you have them. For example:
  - Visas or residence permits from other countries
  - Flight tickets or train tickets
  - Driving license, birth certificate, marriage certificate, certificates
- If you don't have a passport, you'll need to help get a new one.

- If the authorities request it, you must show and hand over your passport or ID card – sometimes only for a certain period of time.

### Important instructions :

- Submit all identity documents to the immigration office or the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees. Have the office make a copy of your documents and confirm the submission in writing.
- If you don't have any papers, contact parents or siblings in your home country and ask them to obtain them. Alternatively, you can ask a lawyer or other people in your home country to obtain identity documents.
- Write down all steps of your involvement in the identity verification process and collect evidence.
- While the asylum procedure is still ongoing, the German authorities cannot oblige you to appear at your embassy.

## Passport requirement in asylum procedures

During the asylum procedure, the immigration authorities cannot demand that you obtain a passport, but the passport requirement still applies; for example, it is fulfilled by the possession of an identity card substitute (Section 3 of the Residence Act).

## Reuniting Families

Do you and your family members not live in the same place or do you still have family members abroad?

Then, depending on the residence status, there are different ways to bring the family together. If you already have a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) for purposes other than humanitarian reasons or if you are German, you will find further information at the [Serviceportal Badenwürttemberg](#).

## Family Reunification

If you live in Germany and already have a **residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) for humanitarian reasons**, you may be able to bring direct family members (parents, children, spouse) from abroad. This is only possible if you have been [granted refugee status](#) by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF; Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge).

To do this you must

1. **within 3 months** after receiving your decision from the BAMF, submit a **timely notification**.
2. Your family members who are to join you in Germany must apply **for a visa at the German mission abroad** (for example, embassy or consulate) in the respective country of their stay.

## Where can I submit the application within the time limit?

On the [website of the German Foreign Office](#), the procedure for family reunification is explained to you and you can also directly file the timely application. You can also find information on the page of the [Integration Commissioner](#).

You can also get more information on family reunification at the [responsible Bureau for Foreigners](#) (Ausländerbehörde).

You can also get support for family reunification at the **German Red Cross** in Karlsruhe:

#### Contact

Mrs. Jelinek  
DRK KV Karlsruhe e.V  
Suchdienst und Familienzusammenführung



Ettlinger Str. 13  
76137 Karlsruhe



Am Mantel 3  
76646 Bruchsal



[07251/922261](tel:07251/922261)



[Ms Jelinek](#)

Consultation on Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Karlsruhe and Bruchsal.  
**Please make an appointment with Ms. Jelinek in advance.**

## **Family reunion**

When you come to Germany as an asylum seeker, you are assigned to a specific district in Germany (for example, the district of Karlsruhe). As a general rule, you must live there at least until the end of your asylum procedure.

## **Moving home to your family or move because of a job**

However, under certain circumstances, you can change the location. For example, if immediate family members (children, spouse, domestic partner, or parents) reside in other counties. In order to be able to move in with your family, you must submit a **redistribution application (Umverteilungsantrag)** to the relevant immigration office. If this application is approved, you may move.

If you already have a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) and you get a [condition of fixed abode \(Wohnsitzauflage\)](#), you must look for an apartment within the specified location.

If you want to move to another place, you must also submit a **redistribution application or an application for cancellation of the residence requirement to the responsible foreigners authority**. This is possible, for example, because of a **family relation** or a **job**.

The application must be **approved** by the receiving immigration authority of the county or municipality to which you wish to move.

## Search service

The Search Service is a place for people who do not know where their relatives are because of wars and disasters, resettlement, flight, expulsion and migration. The Search Service supports people who have been separated involuntarily. And helps bring people back together. It can advise you on all matters relating to family reunification.

You can find search services here:

- Search Service at the [German Red Cross](#)
- International Search Service [The Red Cross and Red Crescent](#)

## Voluntary return home

### Do you want to return to your home country voluntarily?

**We help you to return to, and reintegrate into, your home country.**

### We support you with:

- Obtaining travel documents,
- Organising your voluntary departure,
- reintegrating into your home country in your professional environment (you can still acquire qualifications in Germany in order to take up [self-] employment in your home country)
- Putting you in touch with organisations in your home country (you will still receive helpful contacts in Germany from local contacts in your home country).

### Our advice is:

- confidential,
- anonymous,
- open-ended and
- voluntarily.

### Our target group is:

- Foreigners without a residence permit,
- Asylum seekers whose claims are still being processed,



- Foreigners with a temporary right of residence for humanitarian reasons,
- Other foreigners, including those who have a permanent right of residence, if they are in need,
- Late repatriates, if they are in need,

Those whose residence is in the administrative district of Karlsruhe.

It is not possible to fund return journeys to EU countries.

## Contact persons

### Ms Romanenko

Responsible for: Ettlingen, Karlsbad, Malsch, Marxzell, Rheinstetten, Waldbronn

☎ [0151/26691451](tel:015126691451)

### Ms. Özbagci

Responsible for: Bad Schönborn, Bretten, Forst, Gondelsheim, Kraichtal, Kürnbach, Oberderdingen, Östringen, Sulzfeld, Ubstadt-Weiher, Zaisenhausen

☎ [0163/8365688](tel:01638365688)

### Ms Goldbach

Responsible for: Dettenheim, Graben-Neudorf, Hambrücken, Kronau, Oberhausen-Rheinhausen, Philippsburg, Waghäusel

☎ [0170/4191209](tel:01704191209)

### Ms Litterst

Responsible for: Bruchsal, Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen, Karlsdorf-Neuthard, Linkenheim-Hochstetten, Pfinztal, Stutensee, Walzbachtal, Weingarten

☎ [0175/6378526](tel:01756378526)

@ [rueckkehrberatung@landratsamt-karlsruhe.de](mailto:rueckkehrberatung@landratsamt-karlsruhe.de)

📞 Further information:

[Perspective and 'Return Counselling' Flyer](#)

You can also contact IOM (International Organisation for Migration) in your home country: IOM

## Advice centres and help

### Advice on asylum law

All counselling sessions are **free of charge** and **confidential** and take place in **person or by telephone**.

[\*\*Flüchtlingsrat Baden-Württemberg\*\*](#)

The Flüchtlingsrat Baden-Württemberg, as an association with an office, forms the only independent and supra-regional network of local initiatives that work voluntarily with refugees and for refugees. They support the refugee work on the ground by providing comprehensive information on the social and legal situation in Baden-Württemberg, refugee policy and the situation in the countries of origin.

### **Freunde für Fremde e. V.**

Freunde für Fremde supports you with questions regarding immigration law and dealing with authorities.

### **Freundeskreis Asyl Karlsruhe e.V.**

In addition to social and procedural counselling, Freundeskreis Asyl Karlsruhe offers free legal counselling by lawyers specialised in asylum and aliens law.

### **Pro Bono**

Pro Bono offers you personal counselling sessions for hearings before the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF). However, you can also contact Pro Bono with other concerns about asylum law.

### **Counseling for LGBTIQ\* refugees and asylum seekers**

#### **ZeSIA Karlsruhe**

ZeSIA is a place in Karlsruhe that helps people who have fled because of their sexual identity or because they feel different. For example, if someone is gay, lesbian, trans, or queer.

Refugees can get help there. The help is free. Everything you tell them remains confidential. We only discuss what's important to you.

#### **You will receive support there with these things:**

- Different protection statuses in Germany.
- Process of the asylum procedure.
- Rights and obligations of asylum seekers.
- Preparation for hearings at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF).
- Support with applications.
- Experiences of discrimination.

You can make an appointment for a consultation here:

☎ [0721/35 48 16 15](tel:072135481615)

@ [kevin.wolf@aidshilfe-karlsruhe.de](mailto:kevin.wolf@aidshilfe-karlsruhe.de)

#### **contact**

📍 [Sophienstraße 102, 76135 Karlsruhe](#)  
☎ [0721/35 48 16 15](#) (Kevin Wolf)  
🌐 <https://www.zesia-ka.de/de/queer-refugees>  
✉ [@kevin.wolf@aidshilfe-karlsruhe.de](mailto:kevin.wolf@aidshilfe-karlsruhe.de)

Keywords: LGBTQ, LSBTIQ, LGBTQ, LGBTQ, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans\*, transgender, inter\*, intersex, queer, queer refugees.

## Counselling on integration and social issues

[Advisory centres](#)

### naturalization

If you live permanently in Germany, you can, under certain conditions, obtain German citizenship and a German passport.

If you were not born here and your parents do not have German citizenship, this is called naturalization.

### What are the benefits of naturalization?

With German citizenship you can

- vote in Germany
- run for political office yourself
- live and work in any country of the European Union
- travel to many countries without a visa.

In addition, you no longer have to go to the immigration office.

The period of residence in Germany required for naturalization is five years.

### Who can become a citizen?

Foreigners who wish to acquire German citizenship must fulfill various requirements.

Anyone who is entitled to naturalisation is:

- has been living permanently and legally in Germany for five years,
- is committed to the free democratic basic order of the Basic Law,
- has a permanent or unlimited right of residence at the time of naturalization,
- can support himself independently,
- has sufficient knowledge of German,
- has not been convicted of a criminal offence and

- has passed the "naturalization test" (knowledge of the legal and social order as well as the living conditions in Germany).

Have you met all the requirements? You can check it here: [Quick Check](#)

Some applicants can no longer meet all the requirements due to a physical, mental or psychological illness or disability or due to age. They then have the option of "discretionary naturalization". In these cases, the naturalization authority must decide whether there is a "public interest" in naturalization and whether certain minimum requirements are met.

## How much does naturalization cost?

Naturalization costs 255 euros for adults. For minor children who are naturalized together with their parents, it costs 51 euros. Minor children who are naturalized without their parents must also pay 255 euros.

## What do you need to do?

To become a naturalized citizen, you must submit an application. From your 16th birthday, you can submit this application yourself. For children and young people under 16, parents must submit the application.

You can submit your application online via the [Service BW Portal](#) .

You will find all the necessary documents there. To apply, click on the "Naturalization" field.

If you have any further questions, please send an email to our colleagues at the naturalization authority in the district of Karlsruhe.

The address is:

 [einbuengerung@landratsamt-karlsruhe.de](mailto:einbuengerung@landratsamt-karlsruhe.de)

## Official certification of documents

### What is an official certification?

An official certification is an official confirmation that states: "This document is genuine!"

You need such a confirmation, for example:

- if you want a residence permit,
- if you want to get married,
- or if you want to enroll at a university.

For this purpose, copies of birth certificates, marriage contracts or certificates must be officially certified.

### Where can you get this?

You can go to the town hall or ask at the office that needs the document.