
Table of Contents

How do I get a work permit as a specialist from abroad?	2
International students and graduates as future professionals	2
Entry of skilled workers to seek employment	2
Working as a specialist from abroad	2
Entry from abroad to find a training place	4
IT specialists from abroad	4
Professional drivers from abroad	5

How do I get a work permit as a specialist from abroad?

International students and graduates as future professionals

If you come from another country and have studied in Germany, you are allowed to stay here to find a job.

You will be granted permission to stay in Germany for up to 18 months to look for work.

You are allowed to work even while studying – for example, as a **student assistant**. You can work 120 full days or 240 half days per year. This is possible without the approval of the Federal Employment Agency (with a residence permit under Section 16b of the Residence Act).

You can also obtain a **residence permit for another purpose** during or before completing your studies in Germany:

- If you already have a degree and a company offers you a good job, you may be allowed to start working right away. But this only happens in special cases.
- If you'd like to pursue an apprenticeship, you can switch to a dual training program. This involves studying at school while working for a company.

Entry of skilled workers to seek employment

Entry of skilled workers to seek employment in Germany

It's difficult for foreigners to find a job in Germany. Therefore, skilled workers are allowed to come to Germany to look for work directly.

In November 2023, there were two important changes to the law:

- First, if you meet all the conditions, you have the right to a residence permit.
- Second, you used to only be allowed to work in the profession you trained in. Now you're also allowed to take on other skilled jobs. (There are exceptions for professions with special rules, such as doctors or teachers.)

[Here](#) you can check the conditions for this visa.

Working as a specialist from abroad

Nationals of the European Union (EU) (Europäischen Union) and the European Economic Area (EEA) (Europäischen Wirtschaftsraum)

In Germany, the **EU law on the free movement of persons** applies.

If you are a **citizen of the EU or the EEA**, you may work in Germany. You **do not need a visa** or residence permit.

Nationals of Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand and the USA

Simplified rules apply. In principle, you can enter Germany without a visa and apply for the necessary residence permit to take up work after entry at the [competent “Ausländerbehörde” \(Immigration Office\)](#) within 90 days in Germany. As soon as you are granted the residence title, you are allowed to stay in Germany for a longer period of time and, depending on the residence title, to work.

All other third country nationals

Nationals from all other countries, i.e. third countries, generally require a visa for entry. After entering the country, you must apply for a residence permit within the validity period of the visa, which will allow you to continue to stay in Germany and take up employment.

Requirements for the entry visa:

1. The identity has been clarified. Present a valid passport!
2. The person's livelihood is secured. Will the future income be sufficient to cover the cost of living in Germany?
3. There is no interest in deportation, i.e. you do not represent a danger in Germany.

Apply for the visa as early as possible!

The entry visa is usually issued for a maximum of 6 months. You must apply for a residence permit during this period.

In addition to the visa regulations, there are other requirements that must be met in order to work as a foreign specialist in Germany:

1. They require the approval of the Federal Employment Agency. (There are exceptions to intergovernmental agreements, e.g. the [EU Blue Card](#) is issued above a certain salary limit without the approval of the Federal Employment Agency). The approval of the Federal Employment Agency is obtained from the Ausländerbehörde (Immigration Office) or the foreign mission. It is important that you submit all documents in full.
2. You need an employment contract or a concrete job offer for the approval of the Federal Employment Agency. You must also submit the completed and signed [declaration of employment](#).

Further requirements for the granting of the residence permit:

- There is a concrete job offer
- The Federal Employment Agency has approved the employment
- There is a letter of commendation
- For the [regulated professions](#) you need a professional licence
- For persons over 45 years of age, proof of adequate pension provisions must be provided or a gross salary of at least 55% of the annual contribution assessment ceiling must be paid in the general pension insurance scheme

The residence permit for skilled workers is issued for a period of 4 years. If the employment relationship lasts for a shorter period, the residence permit is only issued for this period. If you then continue to meet the requirements, the residence permit can be extended or a [settlement permit](#) can be issued.

More info at <http://www.make-it-in-germany.com>

The portal provides important information to interested professionals about living and working in Germany and about the immigration process.

Or you can contact [Welcome Center TechnologieRegion Karlsruhe](#) - this is where international experts and young professionals who want to work and live in the TechnologieRegion are advised.

Entry from abroad to find a training place

If you are a third-country national interested in training in Germany, you may be granted a **visa to look for a training place**.

Requirements:

- No older than 25
- School leaving certificate from a German school abroad; entitles the holder to enter higher education in Germany or in the country where the certificate was obtained
- B2 German language skills
- The livelihood during the time in Germany is secured

The visa or residence permit is valid for up to 6 months. You may not work during this time.

If you do not find a training place during this time, you will usually have to leave the country. You may re-enter the country with a visa for the same purpose if you have been abroad for at least as long as you have been in Germany.

Entry for vocational training in Germany

If you have found a training place in Germany as a third-country national, you may enter the country with a visa and start training immediately.

The visa must be applied for in the home country and must be available before entry.

Requirements:

- You can prove that you have a training place
- B1 German language skills; proof not required if the company providing training confirms that the language skills are sufficient

[Click here](#) to see a comprehensive overview.

IT specialists from abroad

Special case: work of IT specialists from other countries

If people from other countries want to work in the field of computers and technology (IT) in Germany, they can do so without having to have their qualifications officially verified. The Federal Employment Agency allows this if they have the necessary skills.

Requirements:

IT professionals can get a special permit to work, called the "Blaue Karte EU" . They can get this permit even if they do not have a university degree. But they must have worked in a similar job for at least three years. In this case, they will earn less money than others doing the same job (at least 39,682.80 euros in 2023).

Professional drivers from abroad

Professional drivers from third countries

Truck and bus drivers from countries outside the EU can work in Germany if the Federal Employment Agency approves.

Important NOTE:

Since November 2023, the procedure has been simplified:

- The Federal Employment Agency no longer checks whether an EU or EEA driving licence and basic qualification are available.
- The priority check is no longer required – it is no longer checked whether German or EU citizens could fill the position.
- Language skills are no longer required.

This makes it easier for drivers from third countries to work in Germany.

More [information](#)