

EU Blue Card

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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](#) .