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Local and integration elections 2025

Local elections 2025

On **14 September 2025**, all eligible voters in North Rhine-Westphalia will be able to elect politicians for their city, municipality or district. These elections are called **local elections**. They take place every five years.

Who is elected?

- Representatives for the city council or municipal council
- Representatives for the district council
- Mayor
- District administrator

The representatives elected by the citizens decide on important issues in a town, municipality or district. For example, whether a new school should be built or whether roads need to be renovated. The representatives on the city council, municipal council or district council belong to a political party. Mayors and district councillors are also usually members of political parties.


Who can vote?

- Persons aged 16 and over
- People who have lived in North Rhine-Westphalia for at least 16 days before the election
- People who have a German passport
- Persons with a passport from another European Union (EU) country
- A court has not prohibited you from voting

Anyone who fulfils all five of these requirements may vote.

Anyone who is allowed to vote will receive an **election notification** from the city council or municipal administration. The polling card states the day of the election and the **polling station**. The polling station is the place where you can cast your vote on election day.

You can also vote from home. This is called **postal voting**. To do this, you must submit an application with your election notification. You must send the application to your city council or municipal administration.

 You can find more information here: [Local elections 2025 | City of Remscheid](#)

Elections to the Integration Council 2025

On **14 September 2025**, an integration council will also be elected in some cities in North Rhine-Westphalia.

What is the Integration Council?

The Integration Council is a political body. The members of the Integration Council are elected. The Integration Council works at city level and represents the interests and concerns of

citizens with a migrant background. It deals with their participation in social, economic and political life. Another important point is to ensure that everyone has the same opportunities to do so.

[The Integration Council of the city of Remscheid](#) consists of 23 members in the 16th electoral term. 15 members of the Integration Council were elected by people with a migrant background. 8 further members are sent by the city council. This means that the Integration Council and the City Council work well together. The chairperson of the current Integration Council is Mrs Erden Anka-Nachtwein.

Who can vote?

- Foreigners who have a residence permit or settlement permit,
- all citizens of the European Union,
- Germans who also have another nationality,
- Persons who have been naturalised in Germany,
- Children of foreign parents who have become German by birth,
- ethnic German repatriates,
- Refugees who have been recognised as persons entitled to protection.

Eligible voters must also fulfil the following requirements:

- be 16 years old on election day,
- have been legally resident in the Federal Republic of Germany for at least one year and
- have had their main residence in the city in which they are voting since the 16th day before the election.

Refugees with a permit or tolerated stay are not allowed to vote.

Who can vote?

German and non-German residents may stand as candidates,

- who are at least 18 years old,
- have lived in Germany for at least one year and
- have lived in the respective city for at least three months.

Further information on the election of the integration councils in the city of Remscheid can be found here: [Current information for the election to the Integration Council | City of Remscheid](#)

Welcome to Remscheid

Greeting from the Lord Mayor

Dear new residents,

Welcome to Remscheid! Our city is a place of diversity, togetherness and opportunities. People from 120 nations live in Remscheid. We are delighted that you are part of our community. Starting out in a new environment brings with it many challenges - from dealing with the authorities to childcare and leisure activities.

We use the Integreat app in Remscheid to make it easier for you to get started. This digital platform offers you important information about life in our city free of charge in several languages. You will find information on finding accommodation and work, language courses, healthcare and much more. The app helps you to quickly find your way around and feel at home in Remscheid. Full-time employees and volunteers can also benefit from the app.

I cordially invite you to use the Integreat app and get actively involved in our city life. Together we can create an open and vibrant urban society.

I wish you all the best for your future in Remscheid!

Burkard Mast-Weisz
Lord Mayor



Welcome to the city of Remscheid

Interesting facts about Remscheid

Introducing the city of Remscheid

Remscheid is a city in North Rhine-Westphalia. It is located in the west of Germany. The city has around 110,000 inhabitants. Remscheid consists of four districts: Alt-Remscheid, Süd, Lennep and Lüttringhausen. These districts have their own history and make the city special.

Industry and history

Remscheid is known for its tool industry. Tools and machines have been manufactured here for many years. This is why Remscheid is also known as the "seaside town on the mountain". Goods used to be sent all over the world from here.

Places of interest

There are many beautiful places in Remscheid. One well-known sight is the Müngsten Bridge. It is the highest railway bridge in Germany. Another beautiful place is the German Röntgen Museum. It shows the life and work of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen. He discovered X-rays and was born in Remscheid.

Nature and recreation

There is a lot of nature around Remscheid. There are many forests and hiking trails. The Eschbach dam is particularly beautiful. It is the oldest drinking water reservoir in Germany. You can go for a walk there and enjoy nature.

Festivals and events

There are many festivals in Remscheid. One well-known festival is the May Fair in May or the Schützen- und Heimatfest in July.

Remscheid is a city with a lot of history, industry and beautiful nature. It has a lot to offer visitors and residents alike.

City map of Remscheid

Here you will find a practical city map of Remscheid: [Link to the city map](#)

Remscheid App

Our "Remscheid App" is the official app for Remscheid.



With Remscheid App you have access to the city's central services. You can book an appointment for city administration services online:

- register
- Apply for an ID card or passport
- Register your car
- Exchange your driving licence
- Appointment at the immigration office
- and other appointments

Under "interesting places" you will find all the important places in Remscheid, such as

- Railway station

- fire brigade
- police station
- Hospital
- schools
- Kindergartens
- Sports facilities
- cultural centres
- and much more

You can also find out about current events and discover the city. Visit the German Röntgen Museum or the German Tool Museum.

Whether you were born in Remscheid, have just moved here or are a guest: the app for Remscheid is the mobile companion for your concerns and activities in our city!

You can download Remscheid App free of charge from the relevant store, for smartphones with the Android operating system from the Google Play Store, for the iOS operating system from the Apple App Store.

Website of the city of Remscheid

Outside of the Integreat app, you can obtain all important information from the city of Remscheid on the city's website. You can find it here: www.remscheid.de

You can select a language there.

Go to the website of the city of Remscheid (www.remscheid.de) and click on the menu with the three bars.



In the next step, click on the translation symbol and select a language.



Service portal of the city of Remscheid

The Remscheid service portal is a website of the city of Remscheid. Citizens can use many city administration services online here.

For example, you can

- book an appointment at the citizens' office,

- submit applications online (e.g. apply for child benefit, register a car, register a business),
- download forms,
- find information on various offices.

The portal is available around the clock. This saves time and means you don't always have to go to the town hall in person.

The site is clearly organised and easy to use. If you need help, you can often find suitable information directly in the offers or contact the city.

[Click here for the service portal](#)

About Integreat

Integreat is a guide to support you in your everyday life. You will find important addresses, contacts and tips and tricks to help you find your way around.

This guide has several chapters. Each chapter deals with a different topic. Among other things, you will find information on doctors, schools, German courses and other institutions. There is also a chapter with ideas on what you can do in your free time. The information and leisure activities change. Your local authority updates them regularly. That's why it's a good idea to check your mobile app often. You will always be informed about current activities and events. You can rely on the information in Integreat.

Download Integreat from your [app store](#). You can also use this app offline if you don't have internet access. When you are back online, the app will update itself.

Sharing information

Important information that you want to pass on, for example, can be downloaded as a PDF in the web app and shared. In the mobile app, you can share interesting content directly, for example via WhatsApp, Facebook or e-mail.

The latest news

You can also receive push notifications with the Integreat smartphone app. You can agree to receive them in the app settings. Important or urgent information is sent to you via push notifications.

Feedback

You can contribute to the further development of the Integreat app in your municipality. You can give feedback using the smiley icons. This feedback is sent to the people who create the content. You can praise or criticise. Write down as many details as possible for ideas or criticism.

Read aloud function

The content of the Integreat app can also be read aloud. To do this, the read aloud function must be switched on in the smartphone settings. This works in all languages. Alternatively, the built-in read aloud function in Integreat can also be used via the menu.

We very much hope that we can make your life in Germany easier with this app.

Integreat in sign language (Video)

This video explains how Integreat works in German sign language. You will learn what is possible. Click on the image to watch the video on YouTube.



Contact the Remscheid app team

We want to further develop and improve these with you. We hope that the information will help you to quickly find a new home in Remscheid

Do you have any questions about the content of the Integreat app? Would you like to tell us something?

Is there information in Integreat Remscheid that you are missing?

Is a translation incorrect?

Is information out of date and no longer current?



Does a link not work?



Is there anything else you would like to tell us?



You can use the feedback function. To do this, click on the "Feedback" icon



You can also send us an e-mail: integreat@remscheid.de


You can also contact the app team at the Municipal Integration Centre of the City of Remscheid by telephone:

 Nicole Bühlbecker
 02191 16 2298

 Christoph Sykulski
 02191 16 3267

 Victoria Morvai
 02191 16 2993

 Michela Polizzi
 021921 16 2063

Further information about the Integreat app in Remscheid can be found here: 
<https://www.remscheid.de/integreat>

Making Integreat better: Integreat Community

Do you use Integreat in your everyday life? Do you want to make Integreat better?

We want to hear your opinion. We do interviews or send you a questionnaire. We also organise small workshops. You can help us a lot with little time!

You want to be part of it? Then send us an e-mail with your name to
community@integreat-app.de - we'll get back to you!

Counselling and help

KIM Case Management - Counselling for integration

The Municipal Integration Management (KIM) helps people with a history of immigration in Remscheid. Many organisations and individuals work together to achieve this. The aim is for everyone to feel at home and be able to live well - in Remscheid and in Germany. This is called integration. You can find more information about KIM in many languages on the following page:
<https://www.kim.nrw/kim-fuer-eingewanderte>

The **KIM case management** of the city of Remscheid and the independent organisations (Caritas and Diakonie) offers counselling for people with various problems. The counselling sessions are for all immigrants, regardless of how long they have been in Germany, where they come from or how old they are.

Together with you, we develop ideas and solutions and support you at all stages of your integration, such as

- vocational training
- language course
- housing
- Money problems
- family
- Work problems
- Unemployment
- Health problems
- Inclusion
- Residence
- Naturalisation

Case management counselling is available at three locations:

Kommunales Integrationszentrum

📍 [Blumenstr. 24, 42853 Remscheid](#)

KIM Case-Management

@kim@remscheid.de

🌐 <https://www.remscheid.de/menschen-soziales/integr...>

Please make an appointment using the [contact form](#) or by email.

Caritasverband Remscheid e.V.

📍 [Blumenstr. 9, 42853 Remscheid](#)

KIM Case-Management

@fim@caritas-rs.de

☎️ [+49219169447023](tel:+49219169447023)

Diakonie im Kirchenkreis Lennep

📍 [Schulgasse 1, 42853 Remscheid](#)

K. En Namli | KIM Case-Management

@kim@diakonie-kkennep.de

☎️ [+4921915916030](tel:+4921915916030)

A. Di Marzio | KIM Case-Management

@kim@diakonie-kkennep.de

☎️ [+49 \(0\) 21915916020](tel:+49(0)21915916020)

Migration counselling for adult immigrants (MBE)

The **Migration Counselling Service for Adult Immigrants (MBE)** helps people who have recently arrived in Germany. It provides support with many questions to make life in Germany easier. The aim is for people to settle well in Germany and be able to participate.

What does the **MBE** do?

The MBE helps in many areas. Here are the most important tasks:

1. personal counselling

The counsellors listen carefully and help with many topics, for example

- Rights and obligations in Germany
- Money from the state (e.g. social welfare)
- School, training and work
- Visits to the doctor and health
- Problems in everyday life

The MBE provides important information and shows ways to solve problems.

2. help with learning German

Language is important for life in Germany. The MBE helps

- find the right language course
- register for courses
- with questions about courses and money for the courses
- with learning German up to level B1 or B2

3. recognition of qualifications

Many people bring qualifications or work experience with them from their home country. The MBE helps:

- find out whether the qualification is recognised in Germany
- find the right offices
- obtain all the necessary documents

4. education and work

The MBE also helps with starting a career:

- Information on training and work
- Help with job applications
- Contacts with employers or the job centre
- Tips on further training and qualifications

5. help with authorities

Many new immigrants have difficulties with forms and authorities. The MBE helps

- with filling out applications
- with appointments with the authorities
- with questions about money, residence permits or insurance

6. finding accommodation and social life

The MBE provides support

- in the search for a flat
- with problems with landlords
- with questions about tenancy agreements
- getting to know clubs or groups

7. help in difficult situations

Some people have major problems, for example

- Mental stress or trauma
- addiction
- quarrels in the family
- The MBE helps itself or refers people to specialists.

8. referral

The MBE works together with other organisations, for example

- Job centres
- schools
- social services

The MBE refers people if they need special help.

Conclusion

Migration counselling for adult immigrants is very important. It helps people to find their feet in Germany. It provides support with many issues and makes it easier to start a new life.

There are three contact points in Remscheid that offer migration counselling for adult immigrants (MBE):

Stadtteil e.V.

📍 [Honsberger Str. 38, 42857 Remscheid](#)

🌐 <https://der-neue-lindenhof.de/>

Katica Andric | Migrationsberatung (MBE)

@ K.Andric@stadtteil-rs.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191938043](tel:+49(0)2191938043)

🗣 Serbo-Croatian, English

Caritasverband Remscheid e.V.

📍 [Blumenstr. 30, 42853 Remscheid](#)

Ewelina Kamrowski | Migrationsberatung (MBE)

@ e.kamrowski@caritasverbandremscheid.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 219169447021](tel:+49(0)219169447021)

🗣 Polish, Russian

Bundesverband spanischer sozialer und kultureller Vereine e.V.

📍 [Hindenburgstr. 1, 42853 Remscheid](#)

🌐 <https://iree.org/>

José Ramón Álvarez Orzáez | Migrationsberatung MBE

@jose.alvarez@iree.org

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191421531](tel:+49(0)2191421531)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 17623535129](tel:+49(0)17623535129)

🗣 Spanish, French, English, Italian, Portuguese

Thalita Santana Frazão | Migrationsberatung (MBE)

@thalita.santana@iree.org

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191421531](tel:+49(0)2191421531)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 17621760849](tel:+49(0)17621760849)

🗣 Spanish, English, Portuguese

Counselling on school integration

How does my child get to school?

Have you recently moved to Remscheid?

Do you have one or more children between the ages of 6 and 18?

Then the children are required to attend school and must attend a school.

Your child has not yet attended a German school and does not speak German?

Then make an appointment with the Municipal Integration Centre for an [initial consultation](#).

Kommunales Integrationszentrum

📍 [Blumenstr. 24, 42853 Remscheid](#)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 21911600](tel:+49(0)21911600)

🌐 <https://www.remscheid.de/ki>

Youth migration service

The Youth Migration Service (JMD) in Remscheid

The Youth Migration Service helps young migrants. It is there for teenagers and young adults aged 12 to 27. The JMD supports them in arriving in Germany.

Here are the most important services:

- **Planning individual help**

The JMD draws up a personalised plan with each young person. Together they look at what is important and how to achieve the goals.

- **Advice on school and work**

The JMD helps if someone has questions about school or training. It shows them how to find the right training programme.

- **Recognising qualifications**

The JMD helps if someone wants to have their school or educational qualifications from abroad recognised.

- **Help in difficult situations**

The JMD is there if someone has personal problems. It offers counselling and looks for solutions together.

- **Support with job applications**

The JMD helps with writing job applications. It shows you how to write a good CV and how to prepare for a job interview.

- **Practising social skills**

The JMD offers training courses to help young people learn how to get on well with other people.

- **Giving important information**

The JMD offers seminars. There, the young people learn a lot about life in Germany, about school, work and everyday life.

- **Referring them to other programmes**

The JMD knows many other organisations, clubs and leisure activities. It helps to find the right contact.

IB Internationaler Bund | Jugendmigrationsdienst (JMD)

📍 [Am Bruch 21 – 23, 42853 Remscheid](#)

✉️ [@jmd-remscheid@ib.de](mailto:jmd-remscheid@ib.de)

<https://www.internationaler-bund.de/standort/2019...>

Dr. Oxana Fuchs | Jugendmigrationsdienst (JMD)

@oxana.fuchs@ib.de

[+49 \(0\) 21916941310](tel:+49(0)21916941310)

[+49 \(0\) 1707002886](tel:+49(0)1707002886)

🗣️ Russian, English

Kerstin Weckbecker-Jahn | Jugendmigrationsdienst (JMD)

@kerstin.weckbecker-jahn@ib.de

[+49 \(0\) 21916941313](tel:+49(0)21916941313)

[+49 \(0\) 15111188577](tel:+49(0)15111188577)

🗣️ English, French

Heike Roggenbuck | Jugendmigrationsdienst (JMD)

@Heike.Roggenbuck@ib.de

[+49 \(0\) 21916941312](tel:+49(0)21916941312)

[+49 \(0\) 16096484453](tel:+49(0)16096484453)

🗣️ English, French

Stephan Busche | Jugendmigrationsdienst (JMD)

@Stephan.busche@ib.de

[+49 \(0\) 21916941312](tel:+49(0)21916941312)

[+49 \(0\) 1707105850](tel:+49(0)1707105850)

🗣️ English, French

Refugee counselling

The local counselling centres for refugees help with many questions. They support people seeking asylum and inform them about their rights. These centres are an important link between those seeking help and society. They offer

- Help with filling out applications
- Information on the asylum procedure
- Counselling on social issues and help with orientation
- Support in dealing with authorities

- Promotion of personal initiative and independence
- Counselling on personal problems and difficult situations

Caritasverband Remscheid e.V. - Fachdienst Integration und Migration

📍 [Blumenstraße 30, 42853 Remscheid](#)

✉ [@fim@caritas-rs.de](mailto:fim@caritas-rs.de)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 219169447023](tel:+49(0)219169447023)

🌐 <https://www.caritas-remscheid.de/hilfe-angebote/m...>

Sozialarbeiter Wülfingstraße | Sozialdienst für Geflüchtete

📍 [Wülfingstraße 1, 42897 Remscheid](#)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 219146454715](tel:+49(0)219146454715)

Sozialhelferin Hasten

📍 [Wülfingstraße 1, 42897 Remscheid](#)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 21915891737](tel:+49(0)21915891737)

Sozialhelferin Lüttringhausen, Lennep

📍 [Wülfingstraße 1, 42897 Remscheid](#)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 21912091933](tel:+49(0)21912091933)

Sozialhelferin Stadtmitte

📍 [Wülfingstraße 1, 42897 Remscheid](#)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 21915894430](tel:+49(0)21915894430)

Lotsepunkt Lennep

📍 [Kölner Str. 3, 42897 Remscheid](#)

✉ [@lotsepunkt-lennep@gmx.de](mailto:lotsepunkt-lennep@gmx.de)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 21917892852](tel:+49(0)21917892852)

🌐 <https://www.lotsepunkt-lennep.de/>

Form help

For many people, filling out forms is a major, sometimes insurmountable hurdle. After all, anyone who wants to apply for unemployment benefit, housing benefit, a disabled person's pass, basic income support or exemption from licence fees or is looking for support from the

local authority must first submit an application.

The form help centres in Remscheid offer their support:

- Filling out forms
- When processing applications
- When processing written enquiries

It's as simple as this: drop by with your forms during opening hours. You do not need an appointment.

It is best to prepare something in advance: Take a look at the form in advance and make a note of any questions you would like to ask during the interview.

The local counsellors have good contacts with the offices and institutions for which you need to fill out the forms.

They know the requirements of the authorities and can give you valuable tips.

Help with forms and support is free of charge.

Lotsenpunkt Lennep

📍 [Kölner Str. 3, 42897 Remscheid](#)

@ lotsenpunkt-lennep@gmx.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 21917892852](tel:+49(0)21917892852)

🌐 <https://www.lotsenpunkt-lennep.de/>

🕒 Monday 14.00-18.00, Tuesday 10.00 to 12.00, Wednesday 10.00 to 12.00 and 12.30 to 14.00, Thursday 10.00 to 12.00 and 16.00 to 18.00

Sozialdienst für Geflüchtete

📍 [Wülfingstr. 1, 42897 Remscheid](#)

Imran Hamurcu

@ imran.hamurcu@remscheid.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 219146454714](tel:+49(0)219146454714)

Arbeit Remscheid (Stadtteilmanagement Kremenholl)

📍 [Bernhardstr. 1, 42857 Remscheid](#)

🕒 Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1.00 pm to 4.30 pm

Caritas Association Remscheid e.V.

Lotsenpunkt Lennep

📍 [Kölner Str. 3, 42897 Remscheid](#)

@lotsenpunkt-lennep@gmx.de

+49 (0) 21917892852

<https://www.lotsenpunkt-lennep.de/>

📅 Wednesdays from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

Legal advice

As an asylum seeker, you also have rights in Germany. For example, if your asylum application has been rejected. There are various services available to support you in legal matters.

If you have a low income and cannot afford a lawyer, you can apply for counselling assistance:

Counselling assistance is support for people who have little money and cannot afford legal advice. This enables them to obtain legal advice without having to go to court.

The most important conditions are

- Little money and few assets: you must have little money, for example only the amount paid for social welfare.
- Legal advice is necessary: You really need help with a legal problem that you cannot solve yourself.
- No court: Counselling assistance only applies if you are not yet in court. If you already have a court date, there are other options, such as legal aid.

Before you receive counselling assistance, you should try to solve the problem yourself. You must also submit evidence (such as letters or emails) with your application. If there are cheaper advice centres, such as debt counselling or the consumer advice centre, you should use these first.

Here you can check whether you can get counselling help: [Preliminary check](#)

Make an application:

You can get counselling assistance if you have little money and need legal help.

Where do you make the application?

You can apply for counselling assistance

- at the local court in your neighbourhood (usually at your place of residence),
- at a lawyer's office,
- or with another counsellor.

Online application:

You can also complete the application online.

Here is the website: <https://service.justiz.de/beratungshilfe>

You can complete the application there and then

- send it by post,

- hand it in personally at the local court,
- or send it via the digital mailbox "Mein Justizpostfach".

If you would like to submit the application directly to the local court:

Please check the court's website beforehand to see whether you need an appointment.

What do you need to bring with you?

- Your ID (identity card or passport)
- Documents relating to the case (e.g. letters, contracts, notices)
- Documents about your financial situation (e.g. payslips, notice of social welfare benefits or bank statements)

If you wish to submit the application in writing:

- Please use the form "Application for counselling assistance"
- Enclose the above-mentioned documents
- This will enable the court to check whether you are eligible for counselling assistance.

Counselling for women

We help women and girls aged 16 and over and their families.

We offer counselling on

- Violence in the family or in a relationship
- Sexual violence
- Other important issues for women* and girls*

We help:

- Finding a way out of difficult situations
- Even if the violence happened a long time ago

We also offer:

- Support during court proceedings
- Information on anonymous evidence collection (ASS) after sexual violence in Remscheid

Important:


Our counselling is free of charge.

We are on the side of women* and girls*.


Everything you tell us remains confidential.

*Women and girls are all people who feel like women or girls.

Frauenberatung

 [Theodorstr. 8, 42853 Remscheid](#)

 [@indigo.fachberatung@skf-bergischland.de](mailto:indigo.fachberatung@skf-bergischland.de)

 [+49 \(0\) 2191696600](tel:+49(0)2191696600)

 <https://www.skf-bergischland.de/unsere-arbeitsfel...>

Now also online counselling: <https://beratung.caritas.de/regionale-angebote/re...>

Family counselling

A family counselling centre is a place where families can get help. Counsellors work there who listen carefully and help.

They help, for example:

When parents and children often argue.

When parents separate or divorce.

If a child is sad or anxious.

If the family has problems at home.

If things are not going well at school.

You can come to counselling alone or together with the family.


The counselling sessions are voluntary and confidential.

Counselling is often free of charge.


The counsellors say:

"You are not alone with your worries. We can help you!"

katholische Ehe-, Familien- und Lebensberatung

 [Blumenstraße 5, 42853 Remscheid](#)

 [@remscheid@efl-wuppertal.de](mailto:remscheid@efl-wuppertal.de)


 [+49 \(0\) 21914627128](tel:+49(0)21914627128)

 <https://koeln.efl-beratung.de/beratungsstellen/wu...>

Remscheid | Beratungsstelle Pro Familia

 [Winkelstr. 2a, 42853 Remscheid](#)

 [@remscheid@profamilia.de](mailto:remscheid@profamilia.de)

 [+49 \(0\) 2191973303](tel:+49(0)2191973303)

 <https://www.profamilia.de/angebote-vor-ort/nordrh...>

Debt counselling

Do you have debts and don't know how to pay for everything? Debt counselling can help you.

The counsellors at the debt counselling service talk to those affected and take a close look at their debts. Then they make a plan together:

- How can you pay off the debt?
- How can you manage the money better?
- What rights do you have vis-à-vis creditors? (Creditors are people or companies to whom you owe money).

Debt counselling also helps you to talk to creditors or agree instalment payments. Sometimes it also helps to prepare a private insolvency (a special arrangement for very high debts).

Important: Counselling is usually free of charge

In a nutshell:

Debt counselling helps if you have debts and don't know what to do on your own.

Arbeit, Beratung Soziales | Schuldnerberatung

📍 [Schulgasse 1, 42853 Remscheid](#)

✉️ info@diakonie-kklnep.de

☎️ [+49 \(0\) 2191591600](tel:+49(0)2191591600)

🌐 <https://www.diakonie-remscheid.de/beratung/schuld...>

Beratungsstelle Remscheid

📍 [Alleestraße 32, 42853 Remscheid](#)

☎️ [+49 \(0\) 21918424791](tel:+49(0)21918424791)

🌐 <https://www.verbraucherzentrale.nrw/beratungsstel...>

AIDS counselling

Aidshilfe is an organisation that helps people who are living with HIV or AIDS - or who want to protect themselves against it.

The AIDS service organisation offers:

- Counselling on HIV, Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases - confidentially and often anonymously.
- Help in everyday life for people with HIV or Aids, for example with questions about work, housing or health.
- Information on how to protect yourself against HIV.
- Support if people are marginalised or treated badly because of their illness.

The counselling is:

- free of charge,

- confidential (nobody finds out about it),
- and, if desired, anonymous (without a name).

Important: The AIDS service is there for everyone - regardless of age, origin or sexual orientation.

Aidshilfe

📍 [Mollplatz 3, 42897 Remscheid](#)

@ info@aidshilfe-wuppertal.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 17634551933](tel:+49017634551933)

🌐 <https://aidshilfe-wuppertal.de/de/vor-ort-remsche...>

STI (sexually transmitted diseases)

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs or STDs for short) are diseases that can be contracted during sex.

This happens when bacteria, viruses or other pathogens are transmitted from one person to another during sex.

For example, you can become infected during vaginal sex, oral sex or anal sex - especially if you don't use a condom.

Examples of such diseases are

- HIV
- Chlamydia
- Gonorrhoea (gonorrhoea)
- syphilis
- Genital herpes
- HPV (human papillomavirus)

Typical symptoms can be

- Itching or burning in the genital area
- Discharge from the vagina or penis
- Pain during urination or sex
- Skin rash or blisters
- But beware: some people don't notice anything - they can still infect others.

What can you do?

- **Use condoms** - they provide good protection against many of these diseases.
- Get tested regularly, especially if you change sexual partners.

- If you have symptoms: Go to the doctor immediately.

Important:

Many sexually transmitted diseases can be treated or cured if you go to the doctor early.

And: Talking about it is not a bad thing - it helps to protect yourself and others.

Counselling for LGBTIQ*

LGBTIQ* stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans*, inter* and queer people. The asterisk* is a placeholder for other identities.

LGBTIQ* rights

Homosexuality / Sexual identity

In Germany, every person can freely live out their sexual orientation. Homosexuality is permitted. For example, women can be lesbian and men can be gay or people can be bisexual. Lesbians, gays and trans* people can be open and meet each other. Same-sex couples can live together and have been able to marry since 2017. Some also raise children together; these families are called rainbow families.

Lesbians and gays must not be discriminated against. There is a separate law on this. You can find more information [here](#).

Transgender, non-binary and intersex people / gender identity

In Germany, everyone has equal rights, regardless of their gender. This means that people in Germany can be neither female nor male, they can then state their gender as "diverse" or "unspecified". Trans*people are allowed to live openly in Germany and receive medical treatment; they are allowed to change their gender. None of these people may be discriminated against either. You can find more information [here](#).

You can find counselling centres here:

Frauenberatung

📍 [Theodorstr. 8, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@ indigo.fachberatung@skf-bergischland.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191696600](tel:+49(0)2191696600)

🌐 <https://www.skf-bergischland.de/unsere-arbeitsfel...>

Remscheid | Beratungsstelle Pro Familia

📍 [Winkelstr. 2a, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@ remscheid@profamilia.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191973303](tel:+49(0)2191973303)

🌐 <https://www.profamilia.de/angebote-vor-ort/nordrh...>

Counselling for people with disabilities

- Counselling helps people with disabilities to understand their rights and options.
- It provides support in planning and organising everyday life and living.
- People with disabilities are given tips on how to solve their problems.
- Counselling can help with finding work, housing and leisure activities.
- It shows what help and support is available.
- There are often advice centres that specialise in certain disabilities.
- Counsellors listen, give advice and help to find solutions.
- Counselling can also help with legal issues or with applying for aids

Dagmar Küster | EUTB

📍 [Hindenburgstraße 6a-10a, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@ eutb-remscheid@gesaonline.de

☎ [+491782811053](tel:+491782811053)

🌐 <https://www.teilhabeberatung.de/de-ls/beratung/eu...>

KoKoBe - Coordination contact and advice centre

The counselling centre helps adults with intellectual or multiple disabilities. It also helps the people who support these adults, such as family members. The advice centre provides information and advice to improve the lives of those affected.

KoKoBe | Lebenshilfe Remscheid

📍 [Berlinerstraße 8, 42897 Remscheid](#)

@ Karin.Mielke@kokobe-remscheid.de

☎ [+4921917890040](tel:+4921917890040)

🌐 <https://www.kokobe-remscheid.de/>

Pflegeberatung

📍 [Am Markt 13, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@ pflegeberatung@remscheid.de


☎ [+492191162740](tel:+492191162740)

🌐 <https://www.remscheid.de/menschen-soziales/senior...>

Lebenshilfe Remscheid e.V. | Menschen mit Beeinträchtigung


📍 [Thüringsberg 7 u. 9, 42897 Remscheid](#)

@ info@lebenshilfe-remscheid.de


 [+4921919930](tel:+4921919930)

 <https://lebenshilfe-remscheid.de/>

Stadt Remscheid | Fachstelle für behinderte Menschen im Arbeitsleben


 [Alleestraße 66, 42853 Remscheid](#)

 [@detlef.strecker@remscheid.de](mailto:detlef.strecker@remscheid.de)


 [+492191163721](tel:+492191163721)


 <https://remscheid.de/vv/produkte/2.50/14638010000...>

Eingliederungshilfe

 [Alleestraße 66, 42853 Remscheid](#)


 [@Eingliederungshilfe@remscheid.de](mailto:Eingliederungshilfe@remscheid.de)

 [+492191163932](tel:+492191163932)


 [+49 \(0\) 2191163748](tel:+49(0)2191163748)

 <https://www.remscheid.de/vv/produkte/2.50/1463801...>

Finanzielle Hilfen für Menschen mit Behinderung

 [Alleestraße 66, 42853 Remscheid](#)

 [@HilfezurPflege@remscheid.de](mailto:HilfezurPflege@remscheid.de)

 [+4921911600](tel:+4921911600)

 <https://www.remscheid.de/menschen-soziales/senior...>

Care counselling

Care counselling from the city of Remscheid

The city of Remscheid offers free help and advice on all aspects of care.

The offer is for:

- People who need care,
- People who are carers themselves,
- and for relatives (e.g. family members).

What does the care counselling service do?

The care counselling service provides information about many services in Remscheid, for example

- Outpatient care (care at home)
- Day care (care during the day, at home in the evening)

- Nursing homes (care around the clock)
- Short-term care (care for a short period of time, e.g. after hospitalisation)

Who can use the counselling service?

- People who are in need of care or disabled
- Relatives who are carers
- Employees working with the elderly or disabled
- Other advice centres

What questions can the care counselling service help with?

For example:

- How do I apply for a care degree?
- How do I get more care allowance or care aids?
- What is the relief contribution?
- What other help is available?
- Where can I find self-help groups?
- Who offers "meals on wheels"?
- What services are available for family carers?

This is how counselling works:

- You can call
- have a personal conversation at the advice centre
- or receive a home visit
- There are also information events for groups.


Important:

Counselling is free, confidential and independent - and you don't have to pay for it.

Pflegeberatung

 [Am Markt 13, 42853 Remscheid](#)

 @pflegeberatung@remscheid.de

 [+49 \(0\) 2191162740](tel:+49(0)2191162740)

 <https://www.remscheid.de/menschen-soziales/senior...>

Pension counselling

Every person is insured differently.

That's why it's a good idea to seek personal advice.

If you still have questions,

the staff at the insurance office will be happy to help you.

Rentenberatung

📍 [Markt 13, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@versicherungsamt@remscheid.de

🌐 <https://www.remscheid.de/vv/produkte/2.50/1463801...>

Consultations and applications can also be made at Deutschen Rentenversicherung Rheinland.
Address: Heinrich-von-Stephan-Straße 24, 51373 Leverkusen.
Telephone number: 0214 8323-01.

Free service number: 0800 1000 4800
Here you can ask questions or get help.

You can also use the [online services](#) of Deutsche Rentenversicherung.
There you can, for example, submit applications or request information.

Pension insurance is barrier-free, which means that people with disabilities can also get around easily.

Psychological counselling centres

Psychologists work in a psychological counselling centre.
They help people who have emotional problems or stress.
You can have a chat there to help you feel better.

When can you get help there?

For example, if:

- You feel very sad or are often anxious.
- You have a lot of fears and don't know how to deal with them.
- You have stress or pressure, for example because of work or in the family.
- You have problems sleeping or concentrating.
- You find it difficult to deal with certain feelings or thoughts.

How does the counselling centre help?

The psychologists listen and talk to you.
They give you tips and advice on how you can deal with your feelings better.
Sometimes they also help you to find strategies to reduce stress.

What is important?

The conversations are confidential and secret.
You don't have to feel alone, the psychologists are there for you.
Counselling can be free or inexpensive, depending on the service.

Sozialpsychiatrischer Dienst

📍 [Hastenerstr. 15, 42855 Remscheid](#)

✉ @sozialpsychiatrischerDienst@remscheid.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191162028](tel:+49(0)2191162028)

🌐 <https://www.remscheid.de/vv/produkte/2.53/Sozialp...>

Franc Schaller | Sozialpsychiatrischer Dienst Sucht

📍 [Schulgasse 1, 42853 Remscheid](#)

✉ @f.schaller@diakonie-kkllenep.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 21929361345](tel:+49(0)21929361345)

🌐 <https://www.diakonie-remscheid.de/beratung/suchtb...>

For children and young people:

Psychologische Beratungsstelle

📍 [Bankstraße 12, 42853 Remscheid](#)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191163888](tel:+49(0)2191163888)

🌐 <https://www.remscheid.de/menschen-soziales/kinder...>

SPZ Remscheid - Social Psychiatric Centre for Psychosocial Counselling, Rehabilitation and Integration

The SPC helps people

- lead an independent life,
- socialise with other people and not be alone,
- organise their day and week well,
- find good employment,
- get a job and stay there.

SPZ Remscheid - Sozialpsychiatrisches Zentrum für psychosoziale Beratung, Rehabilitation und Integration

📍 [Konrad-Adenauer-Straße 2-4, 42853 Remscheid](#)

✉ @info@spz-remscheid.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191933410](tel:+49(0)2191933410)

🌐 <https://spz-remscheid.de/>

Foodsharing

Food sharing means that people and shops share food that would otherwise be thrown away for free.

Why is this good?

- **Less waste:** good food doesn't end up in the bin
- **Free of charge:** everyone can take something, whether rich or poor
- **Community:** You meet nice people and help together

There are people who collect food from supermarkets and bakeries that is no longer being sold. This food is then distributed at various locations, in so-called "Fairteilers" (these are often public fridges or shelves) or via groups on the internet.

Emergency housing assistance for homeless people

Counselling centre for homeless people aged 18 and over

(according to § 67 SGB XII - help for people with special social difficulties)

The advice centre for homeless people has been in existence since 2000.

We help people

- who have no home,
- or whose flat has been cancelled,
- or who have very serious personal problems.

What we do:

We help people with special problems. For example:

- Addiction,
- illness,
- no friends or family,
- no money,
- poor living conditions.

We offer support:

- We help if you need accommodation.
- We help you find a flat.
- We help if you want to live in an institution.
- We provide an address for post or a bank account.
- We help you apply for social benefits.
- We help if you need a new identity card.
- We listen to you if you don't know what to do next.


Our aim is:


We want to make a plan together with you on how to move forward in your life. you don't have to solve your problems alone.

We are here for you.

Caritasverband Remscheid e.V. - Wohnungsnotfallhilfen | Beratungsstelle für wohnungslose Menschen - Sprechstunde


 [Grunerstr. 7, 42857 Remscheid](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 21912096791](tel:+49(0)21912096791)

 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 09:00 to 11:00 and appointments by arrangement


Ute Schlichting | Beratung

[@u.schlichting@caritas-rs.de](mailto:u.schlichting@caritas-rs.de)

 [+49 \(0\) 2191929606](tel:+49(0)2191929606)

Denise Wehner | Beratung

[@wohnungsnotfallhilfen@caritas-rs.de](mailto:wohnungsnotfallhilfen@caritas-rs.de)

 [+49 \(0\) 2191929605](tel:+49(0)2191929605)

Stefan Pommerenke | Beratung

[@wohnungsnotfallhilfen@caritas-rs.de](mailto:wohnungsnotfallhilfen@caritas-rs.de)

 [+49 \(0\) 2191929605](tel:+49(0)2191929605)

Day café

There is a **day** café attached to the counselling centre, which is located in the same building.

The café is open daily and offers the following:

- A stay in attractive, friendly premises
- Possibility of personal/laundry care
- Daily breakfast free of charge
- Current daily newspapers, board games, music, leisure activities
- 2 free internet connections
- and other services

Caritasverband Remscheid e.V. - Wohnungsnotfallhilfen | Tagescafé für wohnungslose Menschen

 [Grunerstr. 7, 42857 Remscheid](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 16090370237](tel:+49(0)16090370237)

🕒 Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 14:00 and Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays from 08:00 to 12:00

Emergency shelter

The **emergency shelter** is located in the same building. This is run by the city of Remscheid.

The emergency shelter is open daily from 7.00 pm to 8.00 am.

☎ [02191 790819](tel:02191790819)

Clothes store

The clothing store provides people with clothes if they have little money.

What is available in the clothing store?

- Jackets and coats
- Trousers and jumpers
- T-shirts and shirts
- shoes
- Bed linen or blankets
- Towels

Who can come to the clothing store?

Anyone who has little money or no home.

The clothes cost very little: 2 euros per purchase and person

Important:

The clothing store has certain opening hours.

It is best to make an appointment in advance.

The clothing store will help you -
so that you are well dressed, even if you have little money.

Caritasverband Remscheid e.V. | Kleiderkammer

📍 [Blumenstr. 9, 42853 Remscheid](#)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191491132](tel:+4902191491132)

🌐 <https://www.caritas-remscheid.de/hilfe-angebote/a...>

🕒 Monday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Baby and children's clothes

💡 Are you looking for clothes for children, a cot or pram?

esperanza Babyladen | Caritasverband Remscheid e.V.

📍 [Blumenstr. 5, 42853 Remscheid](#)

☎ Monday to Thursday from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. and Friday from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Here you will find baby clothes and children's clothes from size 50/56 to 128 and perhaps also the right pram.

Important offices

Immigration office

The **Foreigners' Registration Office (Ausländerbehörde** or Ausländeramt) is an authority in Germany. It is responsible for people from abroad who live or would like to live in Germany.

The **Foreigners' Registration Office** helps, for example, if you need a visa to come to Germany. It also processes applications for residence permits, i.e. permission to stay in Germany. If someone wants to live or work in Germany for longer, they often have to go to the Foreigners' Registration Office. Even if you want to extend your residence permit, you have to make an appointment at the Foreigners' Registration Office. The staff will then check the documents and decide whether the permit will be extended. The Foreigners' Registration Office also provides information and helps with questions about residence law.

To summarise: The **Foreigners' Registration Office** deals with everything to do with residence, visas and papers for foreigners in Germany. Here is a more detailed overview of the tasks of the Foreigners' Registration Office:

- **Visa** - If someone from a country outside the EU wants to come to Germany, they often need a visa. The Foreigners' Registration Office helps if you want to extend or change your visa.
- **Residence permit** - If you want to stay in Germany for longer, for example to work, study or because your family lives here, you need a residence permit. The Foreigners' Registration Office examines the application and issues the permit.
- **Settlement permit** - This is an unlimited permit to stay in Germany permanently. This is also processed by the Foreigners' Registration Office.
- **Work permit** - If someone wants to work in Germany, they sometimes also need a work permit. The Foreigners' Registration Office is also responsible for this.
- **Travel document** - Some people do not have a valid passport from their home country. If it is not possible to obtain a national passport, the Aliens Department will check whether a travel document can be issued, with which they can travel.
- **Integration** - The Foreigners' Registration Office also helps with integration measures, for example integration courses (German courses, orientation courses).
- **Declarations of commitment** - If someone wants to invite a visitor from abroad, a declaration of commitment is sometimes required. This is done at the Foreigners' Registration Office.
- **Duldung and Aufenthaltsgestattung** - For people who do not have a residence permit but cannot be deported for certain reasons, the foreigners authority issues a Duldung. In the case of asylum procedures, there is a residence permit.
- **Information and counselling** - The Foreigners' Registration Office provides information on the rights and obligations of foreigners in Germany.

What do you need to know?

- **Work:** Clarify with the Foreigners' Registration Office whether you are authorised to work.
- **Documents:** Renew your residence document in good time.
- **National passport:** Apply for a new passport in good time.
- **Travelling:** Check whether you are allowed to travel with your document.
- **Deadlines:** An appointment is generally required for the renewal of residence permits (electronic residence permit eAT).

Ausländerbehörde

📍 [Elberfelder Straße 32-36, 42853 Remscheid](#)

✉ @auslaenderamt@remscheid.de

☎ [+4921911600](tel:+4921911600)

🌐 <https://www.remscheid.de/dienstleistungen-service...>

Appointment

Make an appointment online: [Book an appointment](#)

The estimated waiting time for an appointment is currently up to 6 months.

For the collection of residence permits (eAT) applied for, the waiting time is approx. 4 to 6 weeks.

Residents' Registration Office (Citizens' Service)

In principle, all people who come to Germany and wish to stay for longer than three months must register their residential address with the authorities after two weeks at the latest. Are you moving within Germany? Then you must inform the authorities of your new address.

💡 This registration has nothing to do with registering as an asylum seeker or registering with the [immigration authorities](#). You must do this in addition. You can find out how to register as a refugee in the chapter on [asylum and refugees](#).

Who has to register and when?

All people who move to Germany or move within Germany must register or re-register at the Residents' Registration Office (often also called the Citizens' Registration Office, Citizens' Office or Citizens' Service). Registration within two weeks is mandatory. Are you registering too late or not at all? Then you may have to pay a fine.

When you register, you will receive an "**official confirmation of registration**". Keep this document in a safe place. You can use it to prove - even without your ID - that you are registered in a municipality or city in Germany. This means that you are resident there.

What do I need to bring with me to register?

Registration in Remscheid takes place in person at the residents' registration office. If you are registering in Germany for the first time, all persons (whole family, all children) must appear at the Residents' Registration Office. You will find the address of your registration office at the

bottom of this page.


You must bring your identification (identity card, residence permit, residence document, etc.) with you to the registration office. Do you have a passport? Or passport replacement documents? Then bring these with you too. You must also fill in a registration form. You can obtain the form directly from the residents' registration office.

In cities and municipalities, you will also need a so-called "landlord's confirmation of moving in" for the registration. This is a document in which your landlord or landlady confirms that you are renting his or her flat. You can find it here: [Wohnungsgeberbestätigung](#) Have this confirmation filled out by your landlord. You can only register once you have moved in, not before.


Sometimes your birth certificate or marriage certificate is also required for registration. If you have these documents, bring them with you to the registration office as a precaution.

Address of the residents' registration office

Einwohnermeldeamt | Bürgerservice

 [Elberfelder Straße 32-36, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@meldebehoerde@remscheid.de

 [+49 \(0\) 21911600](tel:+49(0)21911600)

Important: Make an appointment online: [Book an appointment](#)

Economic aid and support for refugees

This office helps refugees. It consists of two areas and is responsible for:


1. flats or accommodation

It ensures that refugees, quota refugees and ethnic German repatriates are given a place to live - either in shared accommodation or in flats.

Wirtschaftliche Hilfen und Betreuung für Flüchtlinge | Abteilung Unterbringung

 [Elberfelder Straße 32, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@unterbringung@remscheid.de

 [+49 \(0\) 21911600](tel:+49(0)21911600)

 <https://www.remscheid.de/vv/produkte/3.33/1463801...>

The accommodation department is located in Ludwigstraße.
There is also a letterbox for documents.

Important: Personal interviews are only possible by appointment.
Please make an appointment in advance!

2 Money, benefits in kind and integration measures

Refugees receive money or things within the meaning of the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act so that they can live well. People with a tolerated stay permit, residence permit or specific residence permit (see § 1 AsylbLG) receive benefits, for example for

- Food and drink
- Rent and heating
- Visits to the doctor and medication (also with an electronic health card)
- Assistance with pregnancy and childbirth
- Help for children (from the [education and participation package](#), e.g. for school, excursions or sports)

An application must be submitted in order to receive the benefits.

Integration measures

The office also helps with the start in Germany. This includes language courses or courses on life in Germany. These programmes are called integration measures. They are set out in the law § 5b AsylbLG.

Some people have to take part in an integration course. This is a German course with information about life in Germany.

People who:

- have a residence permit (asylum procedure is ongoing),
- have a tolerated stay according to § 60a paragraph 2 sentence 3 AufenthG,
- have a residence permit according to § 24 AufenthG (e.g. from Ukraine),
- have a residence permit in accordance with Section 25 (5) AufenthG,
- or are able to work, do not work, are over 18 years old and are no longer required to attend school

can be obliged to participate. You can also register for the integration course voluntarily.

Wirtschaftliche Hilfen und Betreuung für Flüchtlinge | Abteilung Leistungen

📍 [Elberfelder Straße 32, 42853 Remscheid](#)

✉️ @aufnahme@remscheid.de

☎️ [+49 \(0\) 21911600](tel:+49(0)21911600)

🌐 <https://www.remscheid.de/vv/produkte/3.33/1463801...>

The department for asylum seeker benefits is located in Ludwigstraße.
There is also a letterbox for documents.

Important: Personal interviews are only possible by appointment.
Please make an appointment in advance!

Job centre

The **job centre** is supposed to get people into work and training. It also helps people who are working or can work but do not have enough money to live on. It supports them in finding a job and gives them money to live on (this is called "citizen's income").

What does the job centre do?

1. pay out money (citizen's allowance)

- It pays cash benefits for living expenses and housing
- Also for children in the family.

2. help with the job search

- Arranges job offers.
- Assists with writing applications.
- Offers coaching or counselling.
- Helps to try out different career opportunities (internship)

3. support and further training

- Pays for courses, e.g. for a new profession or language courses.
- Gives money for retraining or further training.
- It supports the recognition of certificates and qualifications from abroad
- It enables participation in integration language courses organised by the BAMF
- It provides financial support for children and young people for school, sport and culture (BuT education and participation package)
- It places recognised refugees in employment and qualification programmes specially set up for refugees

4. assumption of costs

- Pays costs, e.g. for applications, notarisations or travel costs to job interviews.

💡 The **job centre** therefore not only helps with money, but also with being able to earn money again.

Special information for refugees

Recognised refugees or with residence status (§ 24 AufenthG):

- can apply for citizen's allowance.
- receive help with finding a job, language courses, further training, etc.
- have access to measures such as job application training or job placement.

Asylum seekers (still in the process):

- They generally receive benefits from the social welfare office in accordance with the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act, not from the job centre.

- The job centre is only responsible once you have been recognised.
- Is your asylum application still pending? Or your application has been rejected? Then the [Employment Agency](#) is responsible for questions relating to employment promotion.

Information for EU citizens

EU citizens with work or the will to work:

- You can receive benefits from the job centre if you are working or looking for work.
- However, you must prove that you are actively looking for work or have previously worked.
- The situation here can be complicated - sometimes no citizen's allowance is paid at first (e.g. if you have recently moved to Germany without a job).


EU citizens without a job and without social security:

- They are often not entitled to citizen's allowance, only in exceptional cases.


Information for skilled workers with an "EU Blue Card"

- Skilled workers with an "EU Blue Card" usually have a work permit and a job.
- If you lose your job and become unemployed, you can only receive support (citizen's allowance and job placement) from the job centre if you are allowed to live and work in Germany.

Jobcenter Remscheid

 [Bismarckstr. 8-10, 42853 Remscheid](#)

 [@jobcenter-remscheid@jobcenter-ge.de](mailto:jobcenter-remscheid@jobcenter-ge.de)

 [+49 \(0\) 21919518222](tel:+49(0)21919518222)

 <https://www.jobcenter-remscheid.de/>

Employment Agency

The **Federal Employment Agency** is responsible for everything to do with employment. The employment agency will help you if you

- are looking for a job,
- need help choosing a career in Germany
- want to continue your vocational training,
- need your qualifications recognised,
- are looking for staff as an employer.

In other words, the **Employment Agency** helps young people (school pupils) to find the right career for them (career choice). It helps people who live abroad and want to work in Germany to find a job in Germany. It also helps immigrants who are already in Germany to have their foreign certificates and qualifications recognised here.

The **Employment Agency** not only provides advice, it also acts as an intermediary:

- Application training
- Suitable jobs and apprenticeships
- training grants
- Internships with employers

You can find more information here: [for people from abroad](#)

Support for refugees


For refugees, the Employment Agency is the first point of contact on the way to the German labour market, especially if their asylum procedure is still ongoing or they are tolerated. For recognised refugees who have already received a longer-term residence permit, however, the job centre is the right place for advice and placement in the labour market.

What is the difference between the job centre and the employment agency?

The **employment** agency is responsible for anyone who has never worked in Germany and is subject to social security contributions, e.g. because they live abroad or have just fled to Germany, or because they are still at school and are just starting out in the labour market. The Employment Agency helps these people to enter the German labour market. It also supports people who have been paying into the social security system for some time and are entitled to unemployment benefit after being made redundant or losing their job.


The **job centre** is responsible for all people who are entitled to citizen's allowance. These can be people who have been working for some time but are not yet entitled to unemployment benefit or whose entitlement to unemployment benefit has expired. They can also be recognised refugees who want to work but have not yet found a job.

Agentur für Arbeit Remscheid

 [Bismarckstr. 8, 42853 Remscheid](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 2022828111](#)

 <https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/vor-ort/solingen-wu...>

 Monday, Tuesday and Friday: 08:00 to 13:00

Click here for the [contact form](#). You can use the contact form to make an appointment.

Registry office

The registry office has several tasks. Have you had a child? Then you must report the birth to the registry office. The registry office will then notarise the birth for you. Would you like to get married? Then the registry office will register the marriage.

The tasks at a glance


- Notarising births and deaths
- Conclude marriages and partnerships
- Receiving resignations from the church
- Changing names
- Issuing certificates (birth, death, marriage certificate)

All services of the Remscheid registry office can be found here: [Products/services of the registry office](#)


Standesamt der Stadt Remscheid

 [Theodor-Heuss-Platz 1, 42853 Remscheid](#)

 @standesamt@remscheid.de

 [+49 \(0\) 21911600](tel:+49(0)21911600)

 <https://www.remscheid.de/dienstleistungen-service...>

 Monday and Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8.00 to 12.00 a.m.

You want to get married? Book your appointment online: [Book an appointment for a marriage ceremony](#)

Local court

Remscheid Local Court is a court for the people of Remscheid. It deals with many legal matters. Anyone can go there if, for example, there is a dispute or important matters need to be settled.

Important tasks of the local court:

- **Civil law:**
The court rules on disputes between people, for example problems with tenancy agreements or unpaid bills.
- **Criminal law:**
It tries minor criminal offences, for example theft or damage to property.
- **Family law:**
The court helps with divorces, custody and child maintenance.
- **Carers:**
If someone is ill or elderly and needs help, the court appoints a legal carer.

- **Probate matters:**


When someone dies, the court takes care of the inheritance and issues certificates of inheritance.

- **Land register:**


This is where owners of land and houses are registered or changed.

The local court is therefore an important office for many things in everyday life. It ensures that law and order are observed.

Amtsgericht Remscheid

 [Alleestraße 119, 42853 Remscheid](#)

 [@poststelle@ag-remscheid.nrw.de](mailto:poststelle@ag-remscheid.nrw.de)

 [+49 \(0\) 21917960](tel:+49(0)21917960)

 <https://www.ag-remscheid.nrw.de/index.php>

Youth welfare office

Children's rights are important. Every child deserves to be respected and loved. Do you have a child? Then bring it up in accordance with children's rights. This is important for the well-being of your child. You can find out more in the chapter on [children's rights](#).

The **Youth Welfare Office** supports parents in bringing up children and young people. Anyone can contact the Youth Welfare Office free of charge. Are you a child or young person? Do you have problems? Then you can contact the **General Social Service (ASD)** of the Youth Welfare Office.

The **General Social Service (ASD)** helps families in difficult situations.

The tasks of the ASD are

- **Counselling on parenting issues:** The ASD helps parents if they have difficulties raising their children.
- **Counselling for problems in partnerships, separation or divorce:** The ASD supports parents when they are separating or divorcing and helps to settle visitation and custody issues.
- **Arranging parenting support:** ASD organises help when parents need support in raising their children, for example through parenting counselling or, in particularly difficult cases, through residential youth welfare services.
- **Help plan procedure:** The ASD accompanies parents and children to jointly draw up a plan for the help they need.
- **Support outside the family:** If the child cannot live at home, the ASD helps to find suitable support, for example through foster families or residential groups.

- **Protective measures for children:** If a child is in danger, for example due to neglect or abuse, the ASD can act immediately to protect the child, for example by placing them in a secure facility.
- **Assistance in court cases:** ASD also helps with court proceedings when it comes to custody or child protection.

ASD ensures that children can grow up safely and supports families in difficult times.

Have you had a child? Then the youth welfare office will contact you after a few weeks. You would like a home visit. You can get to know the Youth Welfare Office. You will then receive a whole folder with information and offers. These are important for your child and your family.

Unaccompanied minor refugees are also subject to youth welfare law. This means: The case goes to the youth welfare office.

Open consultation hours Tuesdays 3.00 - 5.00 pm Thursdays 9.00 - 11.00 am and by appointment

Here you will find the telephone number of your [contact person](#).

ASD Hasten

📍 [Hastener Str. 15, 42853 Remscheid](#)

✉️ @ASD-TeamHasten@remscheid.de

☎️ [+49 \(0\) 2191163944](tel:+49(0)2191163944)

ASD Lennep/Lüttringhausen

📍 [Kreuzbergstraße 15, 42899 Remscheid](#)

✉️ @ASD-TeamLuettringhausen@remscheid.de

☎️ [+49 \(0\) 2191163944](tel:+49(0)2191163944)

ASD Lindenhof

📍 [Honsberger Straße 38, 42859 Remscheid](#)

✉️ @ASD-Teamlindenhof@remscheid.de

☎️ [+49 \(0\) 2191163944](tel:+49(0)2191163944)

Health department

The **public health department** is part of the healthcare system in Germany. For example, it is responsible for protecting the population from infectious diseases. Or it deals with hygiene in companies. These can be hospitals and care centres. Or restaurants and cafés. Would you like to work in a restaurant? Then you need an instruction on infection protection. The public health department also has other tasks. It provides advice on AIDS. And looks after the medical service. In schools, they provide information on how to prevent diseases. And in general, it informs the

population about health risks.

Here is a more detailed overview of the tasks of a **public health department**:

Protecting health

The public health department makes sure that people stay healthy. It inspects restaurants, kitchens and canteens. It checks whether everything is clean. It checks how people prepare the food there.

Preventing infections

The public health department helps if a disease is contagious. It informs people about the disease. It tells them what they need to do. It ensures that people remain in quarantine if they are ill. It works to prevent the disease from spreading.

Talk about vaccinations

The public health department explains which vaccinations are important. It provides information about the benefits and risks. They often offer vaccinations themselves.

Examining people

The public health department carries out medical examinations. It examines people who want to become civil servants. It examines people who are applying for a driving licence. It also examines people who want to work in certain professions, for example in hospitals.

Accompanying children and young people

The public health department examines children before they start school. It checks whether the children are healthy. It gives parents tips on how to keep their children healthy.

Supporting pregnant women

The public health department advises women who are expecting a child. It helps young mothers. It gives them advice and explains what support they can get.

Checking the environment

The public health department checks whether the air, water and soil are healthy. It investigates whether noise, exhaust fumes or other substances are making people ill.

Help with addiction problems

The public health department supports people who have problems with alcohol or drugs. It informs them about help services. It helps people to find a way out of addiction.

Helping people with disabilities

The public health department informs people who have a disability. It shows them what help and services are available. It also helps people who need care.

Gesundheitsamt (Fachdienst Gesundheitswesen)

📍 [Hastener Straße 15, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@ gesundheit@remscheid.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 21911600](tel:+49(0)21911600)

🌐 <https://www.remscheid.de/menschen-soziales/gesund...>

Rights, asylum and residence

Rights

In Germany, there are laws that define what everyone is allowed to do and what they are not allowed to do. Everyone has rights, but also duties, which are important so that everyone can live well together. If you don't follow the rules, there can be consequences.

Basic rights

The Basic Law

The Basic Law is the most important rule in Germany.

The Basic Law describes how the country functions and what rights people have. It protects the freedom and dignity of every individual. It ensures that all people are treated equally and that nobody can be injured or arrested just like that.

The Basic Law also sets out how the government works in Germany. It regulates who runs the country, how laws are made and how power is controlled. This ensures that nobody has too much power.

Here are some of the important basic rights set out in the Basic Law:

- **Right to life and physical integrity**
Everyone has the right to stay alive and not be harmed. Nobody is allowed to hurt you.
- **Freedom of the person**
You can decide where you want to live. No one may simply arrest or imprison you without a good reason.
- **Equality before the law**
All people are equal before the law. No matter whether you are rich or poor, whether you come from Germany or another country. Everyone is treated equally.
- **Freedom of expression**
You are free to speak your mind and express yourself. You can say what you think, even if other people have a different opinion.
- **Freedom of religion**
You can believe in whatever you want. You can follow a religion or have no religion
- **Right to work and fair pay**
Everyone is allowed to work and receive a fair wage for their work. No one may be discriminated against when looking for work.
- **Freedom of assembly**
You are allowed to gather with other people to protest or speak out in favour of a cause. This is also a fundamental right.
- **Right to protection of privacy**
Your life and your private information are protected. Nobody is allowed to interfere in your private life without your consent.

These basic rights apply to everyone in Germany, including newcomers to the country. They help you to lead a good and safe life. They protect you from injustice and ensure that all

people are treated with respect.

Here you can find more information about the Basic Law: [German](#), [Arabic](#), [English](#), [Farsi](#), [Kurdish](#), [French](#), [Russian](#), [Spanish](#), [Turkish](#),

Here you can find a film about the Basic Law: [German](#), [Arabic](#), [English](#), [Farsi](#), [French](#)

This film clearly shows how the German constitutional state works: [German](#), [Dari](#), [Arabic](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Pashto](#), [Urdu](#).

Children's rights

Children's rights

As a child, you need special protection. That is why you also have special rights. These rights are set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Convention in 1989.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child can be divided into four groups: the right to life and personal development, equal treatment, the best interests of the child and participation. In detail, this means

- Every child has the right to all the things they need to live. This includes, for example, food and drink or medical treatment.
- The right to go to school is also a child's right, as is the right to play and leisure.
- All girls and boys have the same rights and no child should be treated worse than other children.
- Every child has the right to grow up healthy, cared for and protected from violence.
- Every child has the right to live with their parents or, if the parents are separated, to have contact with both parents.
- All girls and boys have the right to form their own opinion and to stand up for it.

💡 Are there issues that affect you as children? Then adults must listen to your opinion and take it into account when making decisions.

🔍 You can find a clear explanation of the 10 important children's rights here: [German/Arabic](#) and [German/Persian](#).

Are you experiencing violence? Do you feel unfairly treated? Then the [youth welfare office](#) can advise you.


Remscheid Child Protection Association

The child protection organisation in Remscheid stands up for the rights of children and young people and helps them to develop well. It offers parents advice, courses and help to raise their children to be strong and self-confident and ensures a child-friendly future.

Kinderschutzbund

📍 [Elberfelder Str. 41, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@info@kinderschutzbund-remscheid.de

 [+49 \(0\) 2191292141](tel:+49(0)2191292141)

 <https://www.kinderschutzbund-remscheid.de/>

Discrimination

Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency

What does the Anti-Discrimination Agency do?

The Anti-Discrimination Agency supports people who have experienced discrimination or sexual harassment. The counsellors will work with you to try to solve the problem and tell you where you can get help in the area where you live.

Sometimes people are disadvantaged or discriminated against because, for example, they

- come from a different country,
- have a different skin colour
- have a different faith,
- have a disability,
- are too old or too young,
- are a woman or a man,
- are a man who loves a man or a woman who loves a woman.

What is discrimination?

Discrimination means disadvantage: People are treated worse than other people.

Anti-discrimination means that no person should be treated worse than other people.

In the guide "Protection against discrimination in Germany" for refugees and new immigrants, you will find helpful information and examples of discrimination. The brochure is available in English, French, Arabic, Persian (Dari/Farsi), Pashto, Russian, Turkish, Kurdish and Serbian.

⇒ [To the website and download](#)

The General Equal Treatment Act

There is a General Equal Treatment Act. The abbreviation is AGG.

The law applies to all people in Germany, regardless of their residence status. The law is the basis for protection against discrimination.

The anti-discrimination centre can help with legal advice and, for example

- inform you about your rights,
- show you how you can enforce your rights,
- help you resolve a dispute or problem (even if the problem goes to court),

- put you in touch with other advice centres.

Get in touch with us:

+49 (0) 30185551855

Telephone counselling in case of discrimination:

Monday 1pm-3pm, Wednesday and Friday 9am-12pm.

@beratung@ads.bund.de

For general enquiries:

Monday to Friday 9am-12pm and 1pm-3pm.

@poststelle@ads.bund.de

Further information can be found on the website:

⇒ [Website in easy language \(German\)](#)

⇒ [Website in English](#)

⇒ [Website in Arabic](#)

Police**What can the police do?**

The police may ask you for your ID. If you are not suspected of any specific criminal offence or you have no evidence of another suspect, the police may not search you. This also applies to your home: your home may only be searched if you are suspected of a criminal offence or if the police suspect that a suspect is in your home. However, if the police announce that they want to search you or your home anyway, you must say that you do not consent to this. If you do not say anything, this is deemed to be consent. You have said no? The police search your home anyway? Then the police are committing a criminal offence. In this case, contact a counselling centre or a lawyer. You have the right to make a phone call during a search. You may also call someone else. This person can then also be a witness and help you. The police normally need a court order.

Women may ask for a female police officer if they themselves are to be searched.

If you are travelling in a vehicle, the police may ask for your ID, driving licence and vehicle registration document. The police may also ask you to stop and leave the vehicle. The police may also check whether you have a warning triangle and a first-aid kit with you. However, they are not allowed to search your vehicle or test your fitness to drive by carrying out various tests (e.g. walking in a straight line) if there is no clear indication that you are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. If the police do or demand this anyway, you must refuse to give your consent. If the police force you, the police are committing a criminal offence.

If you do not say anything, this will be interpreted as consent.

The police may only carry out a blood test or urine test if you are accused of a criminal offence. As a rule, the police must have the authorisation of a judge. Only if it is necessary to react immediately (for example, because the drugs or alcohol can no longer be detected later)

may the police act without the consent of a judge. However, it is important that there really are indications of alcohol or drug consumption. The police are not allowed to carry out these tests arbitrarily. If a police officer wants to carry out a blood test or urine test without an understandable reason, you can refuse your consent.

The police are also not allowed to take you to the police station without a reason. If a police officer asks you to come with them, you can also refuse to give your consent. If you are taken along anyway, the police are liable to prosecution. In this case, you should contact a lawyer. If you do not know a lawyer yourself, you can contact the "Anwaltlicher Notdienst in Strafsachen" (emergency lawyer service in criminal matters) of the Vereinigung Berliner Strafverteidiger e.V. (Berlin Defence Lawyers Association) at ☎+49 (0) 1723255553 and ask for assistance. The staff there are available day and night.

If you are questioned by the police, you may refuse to make a statement. This means that you do not have to answer their questions. You should not answer the questions without a lawyer. If you receive a written invitation from the police, you do not have to go there. You only have to accept invitations from the public prosecutor's office or a court. Be sure to contact a lawyer beforehand.

You have the right to ask for the police officer's identity card and to write down their details. This is important if you want to file a criminal complaint later. It is also always helpful to ask passers-by to observe the situation. Then you also have witnesses. Important: You must file a criminal complaint within three months of the incident. You can do this directly with the public prosecutor's office. You do not have to go to the police.

What exactly the police are authorised to do varies slightly from state to state.

Polizei

📍 [Quimperplatz 1, 42853 Remscheid](#)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2022847620](#)

🌐 <https://wuppertal.polizei.nrw/medien/polizeiwache...>

Responsibilities of the police

The police are there to protect us from danger. They also solve crimes. They have nothing to do with the secret service or politics. Is there an emergency? Then you can contact the police at any time at ☎110 at any time. The call is free of charge. You can read here what you need to bear in mind when making an emergency call.

Laws stipulate what the police may and may not do. For example, they need a judge's authorisation to search a home. Unless there is great danger to a person in the home.

Do not try to bribe the police. Attempts to bribe police officers are severely penalised in Germany.

When should I call the police?

Are you or another person in danger? Have you witnessed a crime? Then call the police. It could be a robbery. Or a burglary. Theft, arson and damage to property are also included. Sexual abuse, assault or threats are also a matter for the police. You should also call the police in the event of domestic violence.

If you dial the emergency number ☎110 the police will be with you as quickly as possible.

Important: If you have been the victim of right-wing, racist, anti-Semitic, Islamophobic, homophobic or transphobic violence, you can contact the police at any time. You can find out more about this in our chapter ["Discrimination"](#).

You can also call the police in the event of a so-called administrative offence. For example, if someone is not respecting quiet hours and is listening to loud music at night.

If you notice political or religious radicalisation of young adults in your area, you can also report this to the police. You can also contact the BAMF's Radicalisation Advice Centre at ☎09119434343 in several languages.

Rights for people with disabilities

People with disabilities have special rights in Germany. They must not be disadvantaged and should be able to participate everywhere, for example at school or at work. There are laws that ensure that they are treated well and can get everywhere, even with a wheelchair or other aids.

These rights are set out in the [UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)

Advisory Council for the Equality of Persons with Disabilities

The Remscheid Advisory Council for the Equality of People with Disabilities has been helping to improve the lives of people with disabilities in Remscheid for 40 years.

What is the aim of the advisory board?

The Advisory Board wants people with disabilities to be able to lead a good life in Remscheid. To this end, the Advisory Board follows an important international law: the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This law was made by the United Nations. It states that people with disabilities have the same rights as all other people.

Who is affected by this law?

The law helps people who have physical, mental or psychological impairments. These impairments can make it difficult for them to participate in everyday life if there are barriers.

What does the advisory board do in Remscheid?

The advisory board helps to ensure that people with disabilities can participate everywhere. It is committed to ensuring that people with disabilities can, for example

- in schools,
- at work and
- in everyday life
- can live on an equal footing.

Small things make life easier

Sometimes it's small changes that make life much easier for people with disabilities. For example:

Traffic lights that make sounds so blind people know when they can walk,
Lifts that are equipped with speech and Braille (Braille for the blind),

Ramps for wheelchair users or people who have difficulty walking,
Buses that are built so that they are lower and easier to board,
car parks that are specially designed for people with disabilities.

Who works on the advisory board?

Many groups work together on the advisory board:

- People with disabilities,
- helpers and aid organisations,
- politicians from the Remscheid city council.


These groups get together and consider how they can make life even better for people with disabilities in Remscheid.

The advisory board wants all people with disabilities in Remscheid to be able to lead a self-determined and equal life.

Inklusionsrat

 [Theodor-Heuss-Platz 1, 42853 Remscheid](#)

 @Behindertenbeirat@remscheid.de

 [+49 \(0\) 21911600](tel:+49(0)21911600)

 <https://www.remscheid.de/menschen-soziales/mensch...>

Women's rights/equality

Women's rights/equality

Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany - Article 3

(1) All persons are equal before the law.

(2) Men and women shall have equal rights. The state shall implement equal rights for women and men and ensure that existing disadvantages are eliminated.

(3) No person shall be discriminated against or favoured on grounds of sex or descent or race or language or nationality or origin or creed or religious or political opinion. No-one may be disadvantaged because of their disability.

The State Equal Opportunities Act (LGG) for North Rhine-Westphalia ensures that women and men in the state have equal rights and are not disadvantaged.

1: Equal rights for women and men: The law is intended to help ensure that women and men are treated equally. In particular, it should help women if they have been disadvantaged in the past. Women should be able to manage their careers and families just as well as men.

2: No discrimination on the grounds of gender: No one should be treated less favourably because of their gender. This also applies if a regulation applies to everyone, but in practice more women or more men are disadvantaged or favoured. This is also a form of discrimination if there are no good reasons for it.

3: Measures to promote women: In order to eliminate discrimination against women, women may be specifically supported. This is permitted and important in order to eliminate genuine inequalities.

4: Responsibility for implementation: Managers in the authorities must ensure that the law is implemented. They are responsible for ensuring that all rules on equality are actually applied.

Equality in Remscheid

The Equal Opportunities Officer works in the city administration and helps with many things that treat women and men equally. She advises the administration on recruitment or promotions and helps with decisions relating to equality.

She also works outside the city administration on projects that deal with the rights of women and men. She can take part in important meetings of the administration and the council.

Her tasks include, for example

- Equality in the world of work: she is committed to ensuring that everyone has the same opportunities in the workplace.
- Mini-jobs: She looks at how mini-jobs affect people and helps to create better working conditions.
- Reconciling work and family life: It helps to ensure that work and family life are compatible - for both women and men.
- Gender-equitable urban planning: It ensures that urban planning is fair for all genders.
- Domestic violence, separation and divorce: It supports people affected by violence and helps them to find solutions.
- Cultural and public relations work: She organises events, lectures and provides information to raise awareness of the issue of gender equality.

The Equal Opportunities Officer works to ensure that women and men are treated equally and that everyone in society can feel equal.

Click here for more information [Women's Handbook 2025](#)

Women can find information on all women-specific topics here:

Frauenberatung

 [Theodorstr. 8, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@indigo.fachberatung@skf-bergischland.de

+492191696600

<https://www.skf-bergischland.de/unsere-arbeitsfel...>

Labour and wages

On average, women in Germany earn less than men. On the one hand, they work in areas that are paid less. This is the case in the social sector, for example. But women also often earn less than their male colleagues for the same job. Politicians have been discussing various proposals for years to achieve greater pay equality. So far, however, not much has changed.

Many women's jobs are not perceived as work. They do the housework. They bring up the children. Or they care for sick or elderly family members. These jobs are unpaid. But they are still work. This is often not recognised.

In Germany, many people still think that the man earns the money. And therefore he doesn't have to help with the housework. But more and more women are also working.

Would you like to find well-paid work in Germany? Then the first thing you should do is learn German. The BAMF offers courses especially for parents and women. Here you can also get information about childcare and the school system. Where you live, you can obtain information from [migration advice centres](#), [immigration authorities](#), [employment agencies](#), [job centres](#) or directly from the schools that offer integration courses.

FGM - female genital mutilation

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is prohibited in Germany. Since September 2013, FGM has been punishable by imprisonment. Parents are also not allowed to leave the country to have their daughter circumcised abroad. This is also prosecuted under German criminal law. Girls and young women can apply for asylum if they are threatened with being circumcised.

Many girls die during the mutilation or as a result of it. There are many dangerous after-effects of the mutilation:

- Incontinence,
- pain,
- heavy bleeding,
- complications during sexual intercourse and childbirth,
- infertility,
- Risk of HIV and hepatitis infection,
- blood poisoning and tetanus,
- states of shock,
- psychological trauma,
- depression.

💡 Sexual satisfaction is also usually no longer possible after FGM.

If you are affected or threatened by FGM, contact the helpline at [08000116016](tel:08000116016). The helpline staff are there for you day and night and in various languages.

In Germany, it is possible to reconstruct the clitoris. This reconstructive operation can be performed by plastic surgeons. Ask a gynaecologist for advice. A "[Centre for Victims of Genital Mutilation](#)" has been founded in Berlin. Here, not only the physical but also the psychological consequences are treated anonymously and free of charge. You do not need health insurance for this.

Termination of pregnancy

In Germany, you have the right to terminate your pregnancy under certain conditions. An abortion can only be carried out in the first twelve weeks of pregnancy, after pregnancy conflict counselling and accompanied by a doctor. After the first twelve weeks, an abortion is only possible in exceptional cases.

If someone wants to force you to have an abortion or you have questions about a possible abortion, contact the help hotline for pregnant women in distress: ☎ 08 00 40 40 02 0.

Schwangerschaftsberatung

📍 [Blumenstr. 9, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@ esperanza@caritas-rs.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 219149110](tel:+49(0)219149110)

🌐 <https://www.caritas-remscheid.de/hilfe-angebote/k...>

Schwangerschafts - und Konfliktberatung

📍 [Schulgasse 1, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@ skb@diakonie-kklnep.de


☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191591600](tel:+49(0)2191591600)

🌐 <https://www.diakonie-remscheid.de/beratung/famili...>

Schwangerschaftsberatung Pro Familia


📍 [Winkelstr. 2a, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@ remscheid@profamilia.de

 [+49 \(0\) 2191973303](tel:+4902191973303)


 <https://www.diakonie-remscheid.de/beratung/famili...>

If you have become pregnant as a result of rape, you can have an abortion up to twelve weeks after conception. In this case, you do not have to go to a counselling centre. However, you can seek advice free of charge at a counselling centre near you. If your physical or mental health is endangered by the pregnancy, you can still have an abortion at a later date. The risk must be certified by a doctor.

 Are you under 18 years old? Do you want to terminate the pregnancy? Then your mother or father must usually give their consent. Are you over 16 years old? Then the doctor may decide that you no longer need your parents' consent. Are you under 16 years old? Then you usually need the consent of one of your parents. Are you unable or unwilling to tell your parents about the pregnancy? Then contact a counselling centre. The staff there will help you.


Who pays for the costs of an abortion?

If you have become pregnant as a result of rape or if your pregnancy jeopardises your health, your health insurance or social welfare office will cover the costs of an abortion. If you wish to terminate your pregnancy for other reasons, you will have to pay part of the costs yourself. In this case, your health insurance will only pay for the medical counselling and care as well as the medication before and after the procedure. You will have to pay the costs of the actual abortion yourself. This is usually between €200 and €600. You can find out more about the various abortion options in many different languages at zanzu.de.


 Do you receive benefits from the state? Or do you only earn a little money? Then you can apply to your [health insurance company](#) or social welfare office to have the costs of the abortion covered.


I don't want to keep the child, but I don't want to have an abortion either. What can I do?

If you cannot or do not want to keep your child, you can give your child up for adoption after birth. The Youth Welfare Office will then initially take over the care of your child and look after it. If you then finally decide that you do not want to bring up your child yourself, you can give it up for adoption. The youth welfare office will then look for a caring family to raise your child.

If nobody is allowed to find out about your pregnancy, there is still the option of bringing your child into the world. You are not alone in this. There is the option of a so-called "confidential birth". With a "confidential birth", you can give birth to your child safely in a hospital. With the exception of a counsellor, no one will know your name. The counsellor is not allowed to talk to anyone about you. This way you remain unrecognised. After the age of 16, your child may have the right to know your name. However, apart from your child, nobody else has this right. You do not have to pay the costs for the counselling and the birth yourself. If you would like a "confidential birth", you can contact the counselling centre around the clock on the telephone number  08004040020 or online to the counselling centre "[Hilfetelefon für Schwangere](#)" (website in German). Counselling is free and anonymous. The counsellors there speak many languages. Alternatively, you can also contact any clinic. The staff there know what to do.

Sana Klinikum Remscheid | Krankenhaus

 [Burgerstraße 211, 42859 Remscheid](#)

 [+492191130](#)

 <https://www.sana.de/remscheid>

Domestic violence

Your family and friends should support and protect you. However, this is not always the case. Sometimes these people can also hurt you. They can inflict violence on you. This violence can take different forms. It can be sexual. Or physical, such as punches or kicks. But it can also be psychological. If someone you know is violent towards you, this is called "domestic violence".

Domestic violence usually takes place in the home, but can also happen in other places. Many people think of domestic violence in terms of physical violence, i.e. sexual abuse or beatings. But domestic violence also takes other forms: If you are insulted, abused, threatened or controlled, this is also domestic violence. Stalking, i.e. when you are followed and watched, can also be a form of domestic violence.

Every form of violence is a criminal offence in Germany. This means that the [police](#) must intervene if they learn about it from you, witnesses or witnesses.

If you are a victim of domestic violence, you are not alone. Studies show that one in four women in Germany experience domestic violence. Many victims of domestic violence find it difficult to go to the police or a counselling centre with their experiences. They feel ashamed and hope that the situation will change and that the violent person will calm down and stop being violent. In most cases, however, the severity of the violence tends to increase and the intervals between the individual outbreaks of violence become shorter.

There are numerous contact centres in Germany for victims of domestic violence. Do not be afraid to seek help.

You can contact the [help hotline for violence against women](#). The telephone number is: 116 016

The White Ring e.V.

Der Weiße Ring e.V. helps people who have been victims of criminal offences. They offer support and counselling if someone has been injured by a crime or has got into a bad situation. The White Ring wants to help those affected to understand their rights and overcome their fears.

The White Ring's tasks and services include

- Counselling and support: the White Ring helps victims when they don't know what to do. They receive support in dealing with the situation and knowing their rights.
- Help with the police and in court: The White Ring supports victims when they have to speak to the police or go to court. They help to understand everything and accompany the victims.

- Financial help: If someone has financial problems as a result of a criminal offence, the Weißer Ring helps, for example with an emergency fund that can help in certain cases.
- Mental support: If someone is traumatised by a crime, the Weißer Ring offers mental support. They listen and help to process the terrible experiences.
- Prevention: The Weiße Ring is committed to reducing the number of criminal offences. They offer information on how to protect yourself better.

Above all, the White Ring wants to help victims to lead a normal life again and to protect their rights.

You can find more information here: [der weiße Ring e.V.](https://www.der-weiße-ring.de)

☎02421 16622

@remscheid@mail.weisser-ring.de

Asylum

Asylum in Germany means that people who are afraid of danger in their home country can seek protection here. They are allowed to stay in Germany if their safety is threatened and they cannot get help in their own country.

Asylum application

Asylum application

After registering with the Residents' Registration Office in Remscheid, you can apply for asylum.

You apply for asylum in person at the **Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)**.

The Immigration Office in Remscheid helps people who want to stay in Germany. It helps asylum seekers and those entitled to asylum. Asylum seekers receive a document that allows them to stay in Germany temporarily. The BAMF then checks whether the person is granted asylum. The Foreigners' Registration Office helps all those seeking asylum in Remscheid.

[Here](#) you can find a film about the asylum procedure: German, English, French, Arabic, easy language

Personal interview

Now you have to wait for your personal interview at the BAMF.

This is the most important appointment! Please bring your national passport or other documents with you.

The interview is a kind of interview.

An interpreter will help you during the interview.

You must explain why you have come to Germany.

Evidence helps to explain why you have come to Germany.

For example: photos, letters, documents.

Your asylum application will be decided

After the interview, you will have to wait.
The BAMF will examine your asylum application.
This can take some time.
You receive a letter from the BAMF.

=> Yes!

Your asylum application is granted.
It is a positive decision.
You will receive one of four protection authorisations.
These are: Authorisation for asylum, refugee protection, subsidiary protection, prohibition of deportation

If you have a residence permit, you will no longer receive money from the social welfare office. The asylum seeker benefits will be stopped. You can now apply for citizen's allowance.

=> No!

Your asylum application is rejected.
You receive a negative decision and a threat of deportation.

What do you have to do if the answer is no?

That is difficult.
You only have very little time!
Therefore: seek help!

Who can help?

- A [lawyer](#): A lawyer costs money.
- Social worker: A social worker doesn't cost money. The work of a social worker is to help.
Look at ["Counselling and help"](#)
- [Volunteers](#): These are people who volunteer to help.
They don't cost any money.

What else can you do?

- You can leave Germany voluntarily.
- You can return to your country of origin without being forced to do so. A new entry is then possible.
Sometimes you get money for this departure.
There are various offers. The foreigners authority will help you.

What happens if you do not leave?

You will no longer be allowed to stay in Germany.
You may therefore be deported.
This means that the immigration office and the police will force you to leave.
You will be picked up from your home and taken to the airport. You must return to your country.

The police can also arrest you.

You will have to wait in a special prison until you are brought back to your country of origin.

Deportations are not always possible.

For example:

If there is war in the country of origin.

If the country of origin does not want to accept you.

If you do not have a passport from your country of origin.

Because of illness.

=> You will then receive a tolerated stay permit.

This allows you to stay in Germany for a certain period of time.

=> Here you can find further information on tolerated stay.

Benefits for asylum seekers

The "asylum seeker benefit" is a financial aid that people who apply for asylum in Germany receive. Asylum means that someone has had to flee their home country because they are in danger there, for example from war or persecution.

This benefit helps asylum seekers while they wait for a decision on their application. They receive money for things such as

- Food
- clothing
- housing
- health care

It is less than what people who work here and pay taxes receive. The asylum seeker benefit ensures that people have enough to live on while they are waiting for their asylum decision.

You can find the [Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act](#) here

How much money you receive depends on your personal living situation and where you live. You can find a good overview of benefits [here](#).

You can get help on the subject of asylum seeker benefits from the [Refugee counselling](#) service


Asylum counselling

Have you applied for asylum? Then you can seek advice at the asylum counselling centre. You can also go to the counselling service if you are a new immigrant with permanent residence status.

Asylum seekers and refugees can seek advice on everyday matters. The counsellors help with the following topics:

- Asylum procedure - information and answers to questions
- Information about German law
- Help and advice with questions about authorities
- Finding local services
- Orientation on site

- Advise and help with everyday problems
- Advice on integration programmes (such as language courses)
- Advice on questions about family reunification
- Refer people to other specialised services
- Advise on voluntary return or onward migration
- They are contact persons for volunteers. They answer specialised questions about the asylum procedure

 Do you have a secure right of residence? Then the [migration counselling](#) service [for adult immigrants](#) can also help you. It advises adults aged 27 and over. Families can also seek help there.


 Are you under the age of 27? Then the [Youth Migration Service](#) is the right place to go.

Family asylum and international protection for family members

You have been granted asylum in Germany. A member of your family also needs asylum. You can submit an application. The member of your family will be granted the status of a person entitled to protection.

For the purposes of family asylum, members of families include

- Spouses or registered partners,
- unmarried children who are minors,
- the parents of unmarried minor children,
- other adults who have custody of unmarried minor children,
- unmarried minor siblings of minors.

 Parents must have custody of their children. They must therefore be able to look after their children.

Do you want to bring your husband or wife to Germany? You must already be married in your country of origin. Then your husband or wife can also be granted asylum. The marriage must be recognised by Germany. The application for asylum must be submitted before or at the same time as your application. You must be entitled to protection.

Born in Germany:

You have already applied for asylum? Have you subsequently had a child in Germany? A separate asylum application can be made for your child. You or your partner must still be in the asylum procedure. Please inform the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees about the birth. The foreigners authority can also inform the Federal Office. The asylum application is then automatically deemed to have been submitted. The parents can submit their own reasons for asylum for their child. If they do not do this, the same reasons apply as for the parents. Here too, an appeal is possible in the event of a negative decision by the Federal Office.

Likewise, and for the protection of the child, underage children will not and must not be returned separately from their parents in the event of a negative decision.

Further information can be found directly at the BAMF.

 [Website Family reunification \(BAMF\)](#)

Residence status

Everyone in Germany has an ID card. This ID helps to identify people. As an asylum seeker, you also need an ID card. This allows the authorities to recognise your status. Your status determines whether you are allowed to work or not.

Proof of arrival

Status: Asylum seeker

Background: You have informed the authorities that you need asylum. The authorities have registered you in the system. However, you have not yet applied for asylum. This identity card is called proof of arrival. It is valid until you officially apply for asylum. You submit your application to the **Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)**.

The proof of arrival is your first official document in Germany. It usually entitles you to receive state benefits. Obtain information from the **state initial reception centre (LEA)**.





You can find out exactly how the asylum procedure works [here](#).

Residence permit

Status: Asylum seekers

Background: You have applied for asylum. A group of people will decide on your application. This often takes a very long time. This permit is valid until the decision is made. The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) decides on the asylum application. Has your application been rejected as unfounded? Then you can appeal against it. You can do this at the administrative court. You are allowed to stay in Germany until the administrative court has made a decision.

This permit says whether you are allowed to work. The permit tells you where you can live.



Would you like to work? Do you need a permit for this? You can obtain this from the [Foreigners' Registration Office](#). As an employee, you can apply for this.

Would you like to find work? Go to the [employment agency](#)

Do you need financial help? Go to [Economic Aid and Support for Refugees](#)

Tolerance

Status: Duldung is the **suspension of deportation**. You **do not** have a **residence permit**. You are obliged to leave the country. The document is called Duldung and can be recognised by a red bar.

Background: You are currently **not authorised to** stay in Germany. For example, your application for asylum has been rejected. Another reason could be that your residence permit could not be extended or could not be issued.

The tolerated stay permit is issued for a certain period of time. During this time, deportation is not possible for legal, factual, humanitarian or personal reasons and is suspended.



Would you like to work?

A work permit is usually required. You will find a reference to this on the back of the tolerated stay permit. You must consider the following steps when applying for a work permit:

1. Get the form "[Declaration of employment relationship](#)". You can collect it from the [Foreigners' Registration Office](#) or find it online.
2. Your employer fills out the form.
3. The completed form will be sent to the Immigration Office.
4. The Foreigners' Registration Office forwards the form to the Federal Employment Agency. They will decide whether you are authorised to work.
5. The Foreigners' Registration Office will inform you of the decision as to whether you are authorised to work or not.

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

Are you looking for work?

Visit the [Employment Agency](#). You can get advice there.

Do you need financial help?

Go to the [Economic Aid for Asylum Seekers \(Wirtschaftliche Hilfen für Asylbewerber\)](#). There you can receive benefits in accordance with the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act (AsylbLG). They will check whether you are entitled to help under the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act.

You can also seek advice from the regional [refugee counselling](#) service.

Residence permit

Status: Your stay is authorised for a certain period of time.

Background: The residence permit is a temporary residence title. In most cases, you will receive a card. This card is proof of authorised residence.

You will receive a residence permit for a specific purpose, for example:

- So that you can work or study in Germany.
- So that you can live with your family.
- Because you have been recognised as a refugee by the BAMF.
- Or for other legal or humanitarian reasons

The purpose of your stay is stated on your card. There is a law (paragraph) that indicates the purpose for which you are allowed to stay in Germany. If the purpose changes (for example, you finish your studies or start an apprenticeship), contact the immigration office quickly or go to an advice centre.

Sometimes you will also receive an additional sheet containing further important information.



Would you like to work?

With a residence permit you have the right to work in most cases.

Are you looking for work?

Get information from the [Agentur für Arbeit](#) or at the [Jobcenter Remscheid](#), if you already receive support there.

Do you need financial help?

In most cases, the Remscheid Job Centre is responsible for social benefits and job placement.

Have you had a residence permit for a long time? Would you like to apply for a permanent settlement permit?

After a few years, many people with a residence permit have the right to do so. There are various requirements for this. You can find more information [here](#).

Fictitious certificate

Status: Your application for residence or extension is still being processed or a decision has not yet been made. In most cases, all associated rights and obligations remain in place during this time.

Background: You have submitted an application to the foreigners authority to extend your right of residence. The foreigners authority often issues a fictitious certificate for the transitional period until the decision is made or until the extension is granted. This certificate allows you to stay for the time being because your application has not yet been processed.

Important: Whether you can work or receive financial support depends on the residence permit you have applied for. In most cases, all associated rights and obligations remain in force during this period.



Visa

Are you from a **third country outside Europe**? Then you usually need a visa.

What is a visa?

A visa is an official entry authorisation. You must apply for a visa before travelling to a country. The embassy of the country you are travelling to is responsible for this. This authorisation is usually noted in your passport. You are now authorised to stay in the country for the duration and purpose of the visa.

General information on visas can be found [here](#).

A visa always has a purpose and a time limit.

There are different rules, costs and application options for different visas. Please inform yourself in advance.

Whether a visa is required depends on the country of origin and the destination. Some countries have visa-free travel for certain nationals, while others require a visa for almost all foreign visitors.

💡 Bear in mind that you will need to provide for your own living expenses and health insurance for the duration of your visa.

What types of visas are available?

Which visa you need to apply for depends on the purpose of your trip and the planned duration of your stay. There are [different types](#) of visas.

- Visa to work for skilled workers
- Visa for experienced professionals
- Visa for recognition partnership
- Visa for IT workers
- Job search opportunity card
- Visa for the recognition of foreign professional qualifications
- Visa for completing vocational training
- Study visa

Travellers from the EU

People from the EU, the EEA (European Economic Area) and Switzerland can simply come to Germany. They do not need a visa or residence permit. Their families can also come with them.

They can live and work in Germany without needing special permits. However, if they stay in Germany for longer, they must register with the residents' registration office.

This applies to people from the following countries:

- Belgium,
- Bulgaria,

- Denmark,
- Estonia,
- Finland,
- France,
- Greece,
- Great Britain (possibly transitional provisions!),
- Ireland,
- Iceland,
- Italy,
- Croatia,
- Latvia,
- Lichtenstein,
- Lithuania,
- Luxembourg,
- Malta,
- Netherlands,
- Norway,
- Austria,
- Poland,
- Portugal,
- Romania,
- Sweden,
- Switzerland (possibly apply for a residence card),
- Slovakia,
- Slovenia,
- Spain,
- Czech Republic,
- Hungary,
- Cyprus.

People have the right to freedom of movement:

- People who are working, self-employed, training or studying
- People who are looking for work (up to 6 months)
- People who are not working but have enough health insurance and money to cover their living expenses
- EU citizens or their family members who have the right of permanent residence
Family members who come to Germany with an EU citizen or move in with them

Important information on registration:

- If you move to Germany, you must register with the city or municipality in which you live within two weeks.
- You will need your passport or identity card for this.

- If you are renting a flat, you will need [confirmation from the landlord](#).
You do not need a work permit.

Permanent residence:

After 5 years, you can obtain a permanent residence certificate for Germany. You must find out which documents are required for this from the immigration office.

Family members:

Family members travelling with you or following you (spouses, registered partners, children under 21) also have the right to freedom of movement.

If the family members come from a third country and do not live in the Schengen area, they need a visa to enter the country.

In Germany, they must apply for a residence card at the immigration office. After 5 years, they can apply for a permanent residence card.

To show that they are family members, they must present documents such as marriage certificates or birth certificates. These documents must be international or translated into German and notarised by a sworn interpreter.

Naturalisation

How to submit the application:

How to contact us:

By e-mail: einbürgerung@remscheid.de

By post:

City of Remscheid

Department 3.33.1.2 - Naturalisation / Central Services

Elberfelder Straße 32-36

42853 Remscheid

What you need to do:

You must **complete** the application **online**. Then you must print out the application and sign it. Send the signed application together with all the required documents by **e-mail or post**.

Required documents:

There is an information sheet with the "[General requirements for naturalisation](#)". It tells you what you need to do for naturalisation.

You must also print out, complete and sign the documents "[Declarations on the application for naturalisation](#)" and the "[Declaration of loyalty amended version dated 27.06.2024](#)". You must submit these together with the application.

Important information:

You **do not** have to appear in person to submit the application.
Please **do not ask any questions** about the status of the application. This allows the authority to work quickly.

Processing time:

It can take **up to 8 months** to process your application.

Further procedure:

If documents are still missing or an appointment is necessary, the authority will contact you.

Important links and downloads:

Further information and the application forms can be found [here](#).

General requirements for naturalisation

Would you like to obtain German citizenship and be naturalised?

This is possible if you fulfil certain requirements. As a rule, you must have lived permanently and legally in Germany for at least five years. You need

- a [permanent right of residence](#), for example the EU Blue Card, settlement permit or a [residence permit](#),
- a valid passport or identity card that proves your identity and nationality,
- good knowledge of German (at least level B1),
- proof that you have passed the naturalisation test ("Living in Germany"),
- enough income to support yourself and your family,
- no criminal record,
- acceptance of the free and democratic order in Germany.

💡 **Naturalisation is NOT possible** with a residence permit in accordance with §§ 16a, 16b, 16d, 16e, 16f, 17, 18f, 19, 19b, 19e, 20, 22, 23a, 24, 25 paragraphs 3 to 5 and § 104c of the Residence Act.

You can find more information in this video [here](#).

You can find a quick check of the requirements for naturalisation [here](#).

Co-naturalisation of family members

Co-naturalisation of spouse or partner

You can co-naturalise your spouse. There are a few requirements that you need to observe.

Many answers to questions about the naturalisation of your family members can be found [here](#).

Further information can also be found at the naturalisation office of the city of Remscheid.

@Einbürgerung@remscheid.de

Co-naturalisation of children

Was your child born in Germany? But you do not have German citizenship? Then your child does not automatically have German citizenship. Your child will receive the same citizenship as you. This means that the consulate or embassy of your country will issue passports for your child.

Language

General information

To find a job in Germany and generally get by, you need to learn German. There are various ways to learn German.

Your residence status has an influence on which option you can choose.

Language levels

There are different language levels. In the language and integration courses, the levels according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages are used:

Language level A: elementary language use

Language level B: independent use of the language (necessary for training or work)

Language level C: competent use of the language (necessary for studies and certain professions)

A more precise distinction is usually made:

A1: Beginners

A2: Basic knowledge

B1: Advanced language use

B2: Independent language use

C1: Specialised use of the language

C2: Almost native speaker level

There are also further differentiations within these levels (A1/1, A1/2, A2/1, A2/2, etc.)

The six levels mean the following in detail:

A1: Beginner

You can understand and use simple words and sentences.

You can introduce yourself and others. For example: My name is Maria. I am 30 years old. I live in Germany. This is my boyfriend. His name is Paul.

You can ask questions about yourself. For example: What is your name? Where do you live?

You can answer questions. For example: How are you? I am doing well.

You can converse with a person if they speak slowly and clearly.

A2: Basic knowledge

You can understand sentences and frequently used words. You can understand words in these areas: Personal and family information, shopping, work and your neighbourhood.

You can communicate in simple, everyday situations. You can describe your background,

education and environment.

B1: Advanced use of language

You can understand a lot, for example when it comes to work, school or leisure. You can make yourself understood when travelling. You can talk about familiar topics and personal interests. You can talk about experiences and events. They can describe dreams, hopes and goals. You can give brief reasons or explanations for plans and opinions.

B2: Independent use of language

You can understand the most important content of complex texts on concrete and abstract topics. You can also understand specialised discussions in your field of specialisation. You can communicate spontaneously and fluently. A normal conversation with native speakers is possible without much effort on either side. You can express yourself clearly and in detail on many different topics. You can explain a point of view on a topical issue. You can state the advantages and disadvantages of various options.

C1: Specialised language skills

You can understand a lot of demanding, longer texts. You can also grasp implicit meanings. You can express yourself spontaneously and fluently. You rarely have to search for words. You can use the language effectively and flexibly in social and professional life or in training and studies. You can express yourself clearly, in a structured and detailed manner on complex issues. You can use various means of linking texts appropriately.

C2: (Almost) native speaker level

You can understand practically everything you read or hear with ease. You can summarise information from different written and oral sources. You can give reasons and explanations in a coherent presentation. You can express yourself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely. You can also make finer nuances of meaning clear in more complex situations.

Certificates**German certificates**

On many German courses, you can take an exam at the end and receive a certificate. If you pass the exam, the certificate will state how well you can speak, write and read German. For example A2, B1 or B2.

The most important German certificates are

- German - Test for Immigrants([DTZ](#)) - This test is at the end of integration courses. It is for language levels A2/B1.
- [telc](#) German exams
- German certificates from the [Goethe-Institut](#)
- the German Language Diploma([DSD](#))

The costs for the exams vary.

They cost between 40 and 255 euros. Sometimes the costs are covered in full.

If you are not taking a course but need a certificate, you can register for an exam at an [adult education centre](#) or at the [Goethe-Institut](#). This exam also costs something.

Language certificates for studying

If you want to study at a college or university in Germany, you must have a German language certificate. You need one of the following certificates:




- the German Language Diploma of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs ([DSD II](#))
- the German Language Test for University Entrance ([DSH](#))
- Test of German as a Foreign Language ([TestDaF](#)) for international applicants
- an assessment test (if you attend a Studienkolleg, you do not have to take any other test)
- other certificates recognised by the Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs or the German Rectors' Conference
- examinations at level C1 or C2 from the [Goethe-Institut](#)
- the "[telc Deutsch C1 Hochschule](#)" exam
- a completed degree in German studies (not a degree in education)
- a degree certificate from a grammar school, preparatory college, university of applied sciences or a university

For more information on the admission requirements, please contact the colleges or universities.

Aids to communication

If you don't speak German yet, it can be difficult to communicate with others. There are free communication aids that you can use with your smartphone:



Google Translate

- exists as a  [website](#)
- and as an app to download from the  [Google Play Store \(Android\)](#) or  [App Store \(IOS\)](#).
- You can also translate photos of documents

DeepL

- exists as a  [website](#)
- and as an app to download for  [Google Play Store \(Android\)](#) or  [App Store \(IOS\)](#).

Chat GPT

- is available as an app for download for  [Google Play Store \(Android\)](#) or  [App Store \(IOS\)](#).
- You can also translate photos with text

German courses with certificate

Courses for people with disabilities and impairments

These courses are not offered in Remscheid.

You can use the [BAMF-Navi](#) to find the nearest course.

Initial orientation courses

The German courses for initial language orientation are for language beginners. Here you will learn elementary German. You will discover life in Germany. The course is designed to make your life in Germany easier. You will learn how to orientate yourself in everyday life. A course comprises 300 units of 45 minutes each. Various topics are discussed in the course. You will learn about "[health/medical care](#)", "[work](#)", "[kindergarten](#) and [school](#)", "[housing](#)", "local orientation/transport/mobility". The focus is on oral communication: participants should learn to find their way around in everyday life as quickly as possible. The course also teaches German values.

Initial orientation courses are primarily intended for asylum seekers with unclear prospects of remaining in Germany. Are there still places available? Then recognised asylum seekers with good prospects of staying may also take part. Do you still have to go to school? Then the initial orientation courses are not for you. Have you been offered a place on an [integration course](#)? Then you can switch to this course. The people on the courses have very different educational backgrounds. Illiterate people can attend the courses, as can university graduates. Initial orientation courses are free of charge. There is no final test or certificate for these courses.

💡 Please ask at your initial accommodation whether such a course is offered.

Integration courses

General information about integration courses

In this course you will learn German. You will learn more than just the basics. You will also learn about the culture, politics and social life in Germany. One course has 700 lessons.

The integration course concludes with the examinations "[Deutschtest für Zuwanderer](#)" (DTZ) and "[Leben in Deutschland](#)" (LiD). If you pass the German test, you will be able to speak German at level B1.

The integration courses are free of charge for refugees. Do you receive social benefits? Then the course is also free of charge.

The job centre, the social welfare office or the immigration office can oblige you to take part in an integration course. You have not been obliged? But you would like to take part in a course? Then you can apply for an integration course at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF). Do you need help with the application? Then contact an advice centre or ask an integration course provider directly. You can find more information on integration courses on the [BAMF](#) website

Application for an integration course

Make your [application](#) together with the integration course provider or with the help of a counselling centre. You can also complete your application yourself and submit it directly to the BAMF:

Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)

📍 Frankenstraße 210, 90461 Nuremberg

☎ [09 11 94 30](tel:09119430)

🌐 <https://www.bamf.de/>

Where can I attend an integration course?

Here is an overview of the integration course providers in Remscheid:

Volkshochschule Remscheid (VHS)

📍 [Scharffstr. 4-6, 42853 Remscheid](#)

🌐 <https://www.vhs.remscheid.de/>

Martina Pansold

✉ [@martina.pansold@remscheid.de](mailto:martina.pansold@remscheid.de)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191162792](tel:+49(0)2191162792)

Iris Weiel

✉ [@iris.weiel@remscheid.de](mailto:iris.weiel@remscheid.de)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191162690](tel:+49(0)2191162690)

Halima Chalh

✉ [@halima.chalh@remscheid.de](mailto:halima.chalh@remscheid.de)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191163489](tel:+49(0)2191163489)

AWO Familienbildungswerk Bergisch Land

📍 [Honsberger Str. 38, 42857 Remscheid](#)

🌐 <https://der-neue-linden-hof.de/awo-familienbildung...>

Andrea Schmidt

✉ [@andrea.schmidt@awo-kreis-mettmann.de](mailto:andrea.schmidt@awo-kreis-mettmann.de)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 21916084120](tel:+49(0)21916084120)

Grone Bildungszentrum NRW Rheinland gGmbH

📍 [Berghauser Str. 62, 42859 Remscheid](#)

🌐 <https://www.grone.de/>

Frau Sönmezçicek

✉ [@sprache-remscheid@grone.de](mailto:sprache-remscheid@grone.de)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191793170](tel:+49(0)2191793170)

B.I.W. Bergisches Institut für Weiterbildung gGmbH

📍 [Elberfelder Str. 96, 42853 Remscheid](#)

🌐 <https://www.biw-online.net/>

Christine Wassermann

@ christine.wassermann@biw-online.net

☎ [+49 \(0\) 21916945616](tel:+49(0)21916945616)

Renata Kisel

@ renata.kisel@biw-online.net

☎ [+49 \(0\) 21916945614](tel:+49(0)21916945614)

ISS Netzwerk Bildungsakademie GmbH

📍 [Hügelstr. 34, 42859 Remscheid](#)

🌐 <https://www.iss-netzwerk.de/>

Steffen Wirths

@ remscheid@iss-netzwerk.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 21914608777](tel:+49(0)21914608777)

Elife Ersöz

@ remscheid@iss-netzwerk.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2219777480](tel:+49(0)2219777480)

Katholisches Bildungswerk

📍 [Laurentiusstr. 7, 42103 Wuppertal](#)

🌐 <https://bildung.erzbistum-koeln.de/bw-wuppertal-s...>

Luca-M. Di Marzio

@ dimarzio@bildungswerk-wuppertal.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2024958315](tel:+49(0)2024958315)

Please register directly with:

Caritasverband Remscheid e.V. | Sprachkurse

📍 [Blumenstr. 30, 42853 Remscheid](#)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 219169447021](#)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 219169447026](#)

IB Internationaler Bund

📍 [Am Bruch 21 - 23, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@info-daz@ib.de

🌐 <https://www.internationaler-bund.de/angebot/10745>

Irina Ungefug

@irina.ungefug@ib.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 21916941318](#)

HS Dienstleistung GmbH

📍 [Am Bruch 21-23, 42853 Remscheid](#)

🌐 <https://hs-dienstleistung.com/>

Herr Visser

@remscheid@hs-dienstleistung.eu

☎ [+49 \(0\) 1752705717](#)

Frau Sallamaci

@info@hs-dienstleistung.com

☎ [+49 \(0\) 17621698708](#)

WIBI Remscheid - Das Werk für interkulturelle Bildung und Integration

📍 [Sandkuhlstr. 6, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@remscheid@wibi-net.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 15561025405](#)

🌐 <https://wibi-net.de/>

You can also find a course via the [BAMF-Navi](#).

More information on integration courses in easy language is available from the [BAMF](#).

Literacy courses

People who do not know the Latin script have an additional hurdle to overcome. They not only have to learn a new language, but also a new script. It is particularly difficult for people who are also unable to read and write their own language sufficiently.

A course has 1000 to 1300 lessons. You will be taught to read and write in small learning groups. Speaking and understanding German are also encouraged. This enables participants to move around in everyday German without fear.

Whether participation in this course is necessary is tested in the placement procedure for the integration courses.

The literacy course concludes with the examinations "[Deutschtest für Zuwanderer](#)" (DTZ) and "[Leben in Deutschland](#)" (LiD).

Where can I attend a literacy course?

Here is an overview of the course providers in Remscheid:

Volkshochschule Remscheid (VHS)

📍 [Scharffstr. 4-6, 42853 Remscheid](#)

🌐 <https://www.vhs.remscheid.de/>

Martina Pansold

✉ [@martina.pansold@remscheid.de](mailto:martina.pansold@remscheid.de)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191162792](tel:+4902191162792)

Iris Weiel

✉ [@iris.weiel@remscheid.de](mailto:iris.weiel@remscheid.de)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191162690](tel:+4902191162690)

Halima Chalh

✉ [@halima.chalh@remscheid.de](mailto:halima.chalh@remscheid.de)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191163489](tel:+4902191163489)

B.I.W. Bergisches Institut für Weiterbildung gGmbH

📍 [Elberfelder Str. 96, 42853 Remscheid](#)

🌐 <https://www.biw-online.net/>

Christine Wassermann

@christine.wassermann@biw-online.net

☎ [+49 \(0\) 21916945616](tel:+49(0)21916945616)

Renata Kisel

@renata.kisel@biw-online.net

☎ [+49 \(0\) 21916945614](tel:+49(0)21916945614)

ISS Netzwerk Bildungsakademie GmbH

📍 [Hügelstr. 34, 42859 Remscheid](#)

🌐 <https://www.iss-netzwerk.de/>

Steffen Wirths

@remscheid@iss-netzwerk.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 21914608777](tel:+49(0)21914608777)

Elife Ersöz

@remscheid@iss-netzwerk.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2219777480](tel:+49(0)2219777480)

Katholisches Bildungswerk

📍 [Laurentiusstr. 7, 42103 Wuppertal](#)

🌐 <https://bildung.erzbistum-koeln.de/bw-wuppertal-s...>

Luca-M. Di Marzio

@dimarzio@bildungswerk-wuppertal.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2024958315](tel:+49(0)2024958315)

Please register directly with:

Caritasverband Remscheid e.V. | Sprachkurse

📍 [Blumenstr. 30, 42853 Remscheid](#)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 219169447021](tel:+49(0)219169447021)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 219169447026](tel:+49(0)219169447026)

HS Dienstleistung GmbH

📍 [Am Bruch 21-23, 42853 Remscheid](#)

🌐 <https://hs-dienstleistung.com/>

Herr Visser

@remscheid@hs-dienstleistung.eu

☎ [+49 \(0\) 1752705717](tel:+49(0)1752705717)

Frau Sallamaci

@info@hs-dienstleistung.com

☎ [+49 \(0\) 17621698708](tel:+49(0)17621698708)

WIBI Remscheid - Das Werk für interkulturelle Bildung und Integration

📍 [Sandkuhlstr. 6, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@remscheid@wibi-net.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 15561025405](tel:+49(0)15561025405)

🌐 <https://wibi-net.de/>

You can also find a course via the [BAMF-Navi](#).

Courses for the less literate

People who can only read and write Latin to a limited extent attend a literalisation course. A course has 1000 lessons. They are taught to read and write in small learning groups. Speaking and understanding German are also encouraged. This enables participants to move around in everyday German without fear.

Whether participation in this course is necessary is tested in the placement procedure for the integration courses.

German courses without a certificate

Language cafés

Language cafés

In the language cafés you can meet other people and speak German with them. You can practise your German and learn new words. And maybe even make new friends along the way. In the language cafés, it doesn't matter whether you have any previous knowledge of German or not. Everyone sits together in small groups and simply chats.

The following language cafés are currently on offer in Remscheid:

Stadtteil e.V.

📍 [Honsberger Str. 38, 42857 Remscheid](#)

🌐 <https://der-neue-lindenhof.de/>

Frau Friedrich-Zielas

@ u.friedrich-zielas@stadtteil-rs.de

Language café with childcare. Every Sunday, 15:00-17:00. Please contact us via WhatsApp.

Diakonie im Kirchenkreis Lennep | Sprach-Café

📍 [Ambrosius-Vaßbender-Platz 1, 42897 Remscheid](#)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 17687587354](tel:+49(0)17687587354)

🌐 <https://www.diakonie-remscheid.de/b/sprach-cafe-i...>

Other courses

In addition to the integration courses, there are many opportunities to learn German in Remscheid. In a course without a certificate, there are usually exams. Lessons only take place once or twice a week. This means that learning is not as strenuous, but you don't progress as quickly either. These courses are free of charge.

Anyone can come to these courses, regardless of their residence status. You must register before the first lesson.

In the overview you can see the course provider, the location where the course takes place and who you need to contact to register.

German courses

Arbeit Remscheid (Stadtteilmanagement Kremenholz)

📍 [Bernhardstr. 1, 42857 Remscheid](#)

@ B1@arbeit-remscheid.de

Caritasverband Remscheid e.V. | Sprachkurse

📍 [Blumenstr. 30, 42853 Remscheid](#)

☎ [+49219169447021](tel:+49219169447021)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 219169447026](tel:+49(0)219169447026)

Familiengrundschulzentrum Dörpfeld

📍 [Oststraße 6, 42859 Remscheid](#)

Dorina Schneider

☎ [+4917651772206](#)

Familiengrundschulzentrum GGS Mannesmann

📍 [Burger Str. 114, 42859 Remscheid](#)

Sebastian Hill-Sänger

@ ggs-mannesmann@remscheid.de

☎ [+4921916927201](#)

IKE-Förderverein für Interkulturelle Erziehung e.V.

📍 [Blumenstr. 24, 42853 Remscheid](#)

🌐 <https://ike-rs.de/>

Michaela Pappas

@ michaela.pappas@remscheid.de

☎ [+492191162871](#)

Katholisches Bildungswerk

🌐 <https://bildung.erzbistum-koeln.de/bw-wuppertal-s...>

Luca-M. Di Marzio

@ dimarzio@bildungswerk-wuppertal.de

☎ [+492024958315](#)


The course takes place in the premises of Caritasverband Remscheid e.V:

Caritasverband Remscheid e.V.

📍 [Blumenstr. 9, 42853 Remscheid](#)

Literacy courses

Stadtteil e.V.

 [Honsberger Str. 38, 42857 Remscheid](#)

 <https://der-neue-lindenhof.de/>

Frau Friedrich-Zielas

[@u.friedrich-zielas@stadtteil-rs.de](mailto:u.friedrich-zielas@stadtteil-rs.de)


Literacy course for women

IKE-Förderverein für Interkulturelle Erziehung e.V.

 [Stephanstr. 2, 42859 Remscheid](#)

Michaela Pappas

[@michaela.pappas@remscheid.de](mailto:michaela.pappas@remscheid.de)

 [+492191162871](tel:+492191162871)

Learn German yourself

Are you unable to attend a German course at the moment? Or would you like to continue learning and practising on your own in addition to your course?

We have a few ideas for you:

vhs learning portal

- Here you will find exercises for all levels (beginners and advanced) up to B2
- There is a lot of grammar and vocabulary material here.
- You can learn to read and write here.
- You can use the portal free of charge.
- There are explanations in 19 languages
- A tutor can support you with your learning.
- Also available as a free app: Download from Google Play and App Store.

 to the [vhs learning portal](#)

Deutsche Welle

Learn German easily and free of charge with Deutsche Welle's mobile courses. Whether for beginners, advanced learners or professionals: here you will find German courses and offers for learning German with news or music from level A1 to C2. Teaching materials and specialised news are available for German teachers.

 [Learn German](#)

DaFür

- Learn German online using typical everyday situations.
- Online modules and app with authentic videos on everyday situations, with vocabulary trainer (Kurdish, Arabic, Farsi and English).



Goethe-Institut

The Goethe-Institut has developed many free media that you can use to practise German up to C2 level: from apps with learning materials, videos, podcasts and games to social media and community offerings. No matter how well you already speak German.



deutsch.info

Multilingual website for learning German

On deutsch.info you can learn German for free, anytime and anywhere. All content is online and with support in 23 different languages! In addition to online courses, grammar, games and audio-visual materials, you will also find practical information about living and working in Germany.



Arrive app

This app will help you during your first few weeks in Germany. You can learn your first German sentences. You will also find lots of other information about life in Germany and about asylum, training and work.



Lunes app

The Lunes app is a picture and sound-based vocabulary trainer for people with German as a second language at school and at work.

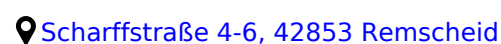
Among other things, Lunes supports the transition from training to work with technical terms and job-specific vocabulary. Various modules contain numerous illustrated vocabulary words with a supplementary read-aloud function. Vocabulary can be learnt in three levels with the help of single-choice and gap-filling exercises. These also include exercises on the use of the correct articles and the correct spelling of words. This encourages vocabulary memorisation in a varied way and is fun at the same time.



Libraries

In the public [libraries](#) you will find many dictionaries and learning materials for learning German. You can also study there in peace and quiet and usually also use the Wi-Fi. Use is either free or very cheap. The largest library with the most materials is in the centre of Remscheid. There are also libraries in Lennep and Lüttringhausen.

Zentralbibliothek



@bibliothek@remscheid.de

[+49 \(0\) 2191162637](tel:+49(0)2191162637)

Stadtteilbibliothek Lennep

[📍 Berliner Straße 9, 42897 Remscheid](#)

@biblen@remscheid.de

[+49 \(0\) 21912097012](tel:+49(0)21912097012)

Stadtteilbibliothek Lüttringhausen

[📍 Gertenbachstraße 22, 42899 Remscheid](#)

@bibblue@remscheid.de

[+49 \(0\) 2191162354](tel:+49(0)2191162354)

You can find more information about the libraries in Remscheid [here](#).

Interpreters and translations

Find an interpreter

If you do not yet speak German well and have to go to a public authority, you will need an interpreter. This is also helpful if you go to a counselling centre, to a meeting at school or to kindergarten. An interpreter will help you to better understand what others are saying.

Some authorities have their own interpreters. You can make an appointment. You can ask if someone can interpret. Ask if the interpreters are free of charge. If not, the authority can ask the local integration centre for a volunteer language mediator.

Further information on volunteer language mediators can be [found here](#).

A public authority or, for example, a school can [request](#) a volunteer language mediator directly via an [online enquiry](#).

How you can become a language mediator


If you speak English or German well (at least B2 level), you can help others who do not speak these languages. You can accompany them to authorities or other appointments.

Would you like to help others with your language skills? Then get in touch with us:


@sprachmittler@remscheid.de

We are happy to provide information:


Elif Aybirdi-Tarhan

 [+49 \(0\) 2191162964](tel:+49(0)2191162964)

Kirsten Eger

 [+49 \(0\) 2191162989](tel:+49(0)2191162989)

Jeanne Richter

 [+49 \(0\) 2191162983](tel:+49(0)2191162983)

Translations of documents

Official documents such as certificates, marriage certificates or birth certificates may only be translated by state-certified translators in Germany. These translations can be very expensive. It is best to check in advance whether you need a certified translation and compare the prices.

You can find a list of authorised translators and interpreters in Germany here:



www.justiz-dolmetscher.de

Living and everyday life

Living

Search and rent a flat

Looking for a flat

Before you start looking for a flat, you should get an overview of the city and clarify a few questions for yourself. Which neighbourhood do I want to live in? Are there shops there, how far is it to school or work? Is it easy to get there by bus or train? Is this neighbourhood family-friendly? You should also find out in advance who the important authorities, offices or other contacts are for you. A basic knowledge of German will help you to make yourself understood when looking for accommodation.

There are a number of large **housing associations** in Remscheid that rent out affordable housing throughout the city. You can find all the housing associations on the Internet, some of which are listed below:

[GEWAG](#)

[GWG - Gemeinnützige Wohnungsgenossenschaft eG](#)

[WBG Remscheid e.G.](#)

LEG

In addition to adverts in **daily** and **weekly newspapers**, there are now a large number of **online portals** offering rental flats and condominiums. You can also find vacant flats on property portals such as [ImmoScout24](#), [Immowelt](#) or [eBay-Kleinanzeigen](#).

Affordable and attractive flats are in high demand. That is why it is often difficult to find a suitable flat quickly. Don't let this discourage you. If you already have your own flat, you need to remember the notice period. This is usually three months. During this time, you can prepare well for the move.

Renting a flat

You have found a flat. Congratulations! This flat belongs to a person or a company. This person or company is your **landlord**. You enter into a contract with this party. The contract states: You are allowed to live in the flat. The contract is called a tenancy agreement.

Tenancy agreement

The tenancy agreement states what you must do and what the landlord or landlady must do. For example, you have to pay money every month. This is called rent. The landlord or landlady must let you use the flat. He or she must also take care of repairs in the flat. **The tenancy agreement is an important document.** It states how much the flat costs. The tenancy agreement also states whether you are allowed to smoke or do laundry in the flat. Everything is written down in detail. Don't understand something? Then ask - preferably before you sign the contract.

Rent and service charges

The rent consists of two parts: The **net rent** and the **service charges**. You pay the net rent as a lump sum for the use of the flat. You pay the service charges separately each month. These costs may include, for example, water, heating, rubbish collection or the caretaker. The amount of the service charges is set out in the tenancy agreement. All service charges are paid by all tenants in the building. If you have a larger flat, you pay more. You will receive a **service charge statement** every year. This states how much the annual service charges are. You may have to pay an additional amount because, for example, you have used more heating than previously calculated. However, you may also receive a refund because, for example, you used less hot water than previously calculated. It is always important to check the bill carefully. You can find information on other costs [here](#).

Security deposit

The deposit must be paid separately. It is a security for the landlord or landlady. The maximum amount for the deposit is **3 basic rents**. You will receive the deposit back when you move out if you leave the flat without any defects.

Inspection of the flat

You now have a **key to your flat**. Take good care of it. If you lose the key, a locksmith will have to come. This can cost a lot of money. Sometimes your landlord or landlady needs to enter your flat. There are situations in which other people may also enter your home. You will

be informed of this in advance - for example by letter or phone call. This is important, for example, if a tradesperson needs to repair something. Or if the municipal utilities or your electricity or water provider are coming to read the meter.

Are there any problems or further questions? Then you can also contact your [local tenants' association](#):

Mieterverein Remscheid-Wermelskirchen e.V.

📍 [Bismarckstr. 138, 42859 Remscheid](#)

@mietervereins@t-online.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191385850](tel:+49(0)2191385850)

🌐 <https://www.mieterverein-remscheid.de/>

Charges for gas, electricity, internet and telephone

Gas and electricity

In Germany, most people need gas and electricity for their homes. Gas is used for cooking and heating. Electricity is used for lighting and electrical appliances. **When you move into a new home, you have to register with a gas and electricity supplier.** These are companies that sell gas and electricity. You can choose different suppliers. Compare prices to find the best provider. The best way to find an overview of providers and price comparisons is to use the independent [Energieverbraucherportal](#). When you register, you must provide the number of your electricity meter and the current meter reading. The same applies to gas (if there is gas in your home).

You must sign a contract. This contract states how much you have to pay for gas and electricity. The prices may vary. Pay attention to whether there is a fixed price or whether the price can fluctuate. You pay the charges for gas and electricity every month or every few months. The company will send you an invoice. Sometimes you also have to make an advance payment.

Internet and telephone

Internet and telephone are important for communicating with other people and finding information. You also need to register with a provider for internet and telephone. There are many providers in Germany. Compare the offers to find the best one for you. You will need to sign a contract. This contract states how much you have to pay for Internet and telephone. Pay attention to whether there is a minimum term. This means that you cannot cancel the contract for a certain period of time. You also pay the fees for Internet and telephone every month. Here too, you will receive an invoice from the company.

Comparison portals such as [Check24](#) and [Verivox](#) can also help you choose a suitable provider.

Do you have any further questions? Then you can also contact the consumer advice centre:

Verbraucherzentrale NRW Beratungsstelle Remscheid

📍 [Alleestraße 32, 42853 Remscheid](#)

☎ [+4921918424791](#)

🌐 <https://www.verbraucherzentrale.nrw/beratungsstel...>

Broadcasting licence fees (GEZ)

Broadcasting fees - what you should know

In Germany, there are licence fees for television, radio and internet services from broadcasters such as ARD, ZDF and Deutschlandradio. These broadcasters receive the money so that they can make good programmes for everyone - while remaining independent.

If you are new to Remscheid, you should know this:

Someone has to pay this contribution for every flat - regardless of whether you watch TV or not. But don't worry: only one person per flat has to pay. This costs 18.36 euros per month. The money goes to the ARD, ZDF and Deutschlandradio contribution service.

The contribution applies not only to television, but also to

the radio,
the media libraries on the internet,
and the broadcasters' streaming services.

If you have little money, you can apply for a reduction or even an exemption from the fee. This is possible, for example, if you receive social benefits. You can find more information about this on the [Beitragsservice website](#).

Further information can be found in the following [information sheet](#) (also available [here](#) in English, French, Arabic, Spanish, Chinese and Russian) and on the [website of the licence fee service](#).

Tenant protection

Tenant protection is important for everyone who lives in a flat. In Germany, there are rules that protect tenants. These rules help to ensure that tenants are treated fairly. If you rent a flat, you have rights. For example, landlords are not allowed to simply increase the rent. They must adhere to certain rules. If the rent is to be increased, the landlord must inform you in good time. Furthermore, landlords are not allowed to simply come into your flat. They need your permission to do so. If there are problems in the flat, such as mould or broken heating systems, landlords must rectify these problems quickly. There are also organisations that can help you.

If you have questions about your tenancy agreement or service charges or need help, you can contact the tenants' association in Remscheid. There are people working there who are well versed in tenancy law. They can give you tips and support you. It is important that you know your rights. That way you can live safely and happily in your new home:

Mieterverein Remscheid-Wermelskirchen e.V.

📍 [Bismarckstr. 138, 42859 Remscheid](#)

@mietervereins@t-online.de

☎️ [+49 \(0\) 2191385850](tel:+49(0)2191385850)

🌐 <https://www.mieterverein-remscheid.de/>

You can also contact the consumer advice centre if you have any questions:

Verbraucherzentrale NRW Beratungsstelle Remscheid

📍 [Alleestraße 32, 42853 Remscheid](#)

☎️ [+49 \(0\) 21918424791](tel:+49(0)21918424791)

🌐 <https://www.verbraucherzentrale.nrw/beratungsstel...>

Both services are subject to a charge.

Housing entitlement certificate (WBS)

If you have a low income, you can apply for a **Wohnberechtigungsschein (WBS)** application. There is a **salary limit** for this, as your income must not be too high. With the WBS, you can move into a **publicly subsidised flat (social housing)**. The **WBS** is **valid for one year**, after which it must be renewed.

To obtain the WBS, the flat must not be too large. This also depends on how many people live in your household. Further information on the WBS and how to apply can be found on the [municipal homepage](#). You can find the application form [here](#). If you have any further questions, please contact the relevant office:

Stadt Remscheid, Fachdienst Soziales und Wohnen - Abteilung Wohnen und Refinanzierung

📍 [Haddenbacher Straße 38-42, 42855 Remscheid](#)

@wohnen@remscheid.de

☎️ [+49 \(0\) 21911600](tel:+49(0)21911600)

Housing benefit

Who gets housing benefit?

Housing benefit is money from the state. It helps you to pay your rent. If you have just moved to Remscheid, housing benefit can be very important for you. You get it if you don't earn that much money. For example, if you have a family, live alone with a child or are a pensioner.

If you already receive other assistance from the state where the rent is already paid - as is the case with citizen's allowance - then you will not receive housing benefit.

What do you have to fulfil to receive housing benefit?

Whether you receive housing benefit and how much depends on three things:

How many people live with you,
how much money you earn and
how high your rent is.

You can use the [online housing benefit calculator](#) to find out whether and how much housing benefit you would receive.

How do you get housing benefit?

If you would like to receive housing benefit, you must submit an application. This means that you have to tell the city that you need help. The city council will then tell you what papers you need to bring with you. For example

How much money you earn,
how much rent you pay and
who lives in your family.

You can also find the documents on the [website of the Ministry of Regional Identity, Communities and Local Government, Building and Digitalisation](#).

Further information can be found on the [municipal homepage](#) and at:

Stadt Remscheid, Fachdienst Soziales und Wohnen - Abteilung Wohngeld/BuT

📍 [Haddenbacher Straße 38-42, 42855 Remscheid](#)

✉️ @wohngeld@remscheid.de

☎️ [+49 \(0\) 0219116215902191162504](tel:+49(0)0219116215902191162504)


Log in


If you move to a new town or village, you must register there. This is important so that the authorities know where you live. In Remscheid, you must register with the relevant **residents' registration office**. This is an authority that is responsible for registering places of residence. You must register within two weeks of your move. If you do not do this, there may be problems. It is therefore important to meet the deadline. You can find more information [here](#).

Einwohnermeldeamt | Bürgerservice

📍 [Elberfelder Straße 32-36, 42853 Remscheid](#)

✉️ @meldebehoerde@remscheid.de

 [+49 \(0\) 21911600](tel:+4920121911600)

 Important: You must book an [appointment online](#) in advance.

Bank account

Bank account

If you are new to Remscheid, it is important to open a **bank account**. A bank account helps you to manage your money securely and makes many everyday things easier. For example, you can use a bank account to receive your salary, pay bills and transfer money.

With a bank account you can:

- Make transfers
- Receive cashless payments (payments from offices / authorities / social benefits are often only transferred to a current account)
- Set up standing orders
- Participate in direct debits
- Cashing cheques, making cashless payments with the EC/Maestro card
- Withdraw cash at the bank counter or at an ATM
- Print out your account statements

Documents required

To open a bank account, you need to bring some documents with you. Firstly, you will need an **identity card or passport** so that the bank knows who you are. You will also need **proof of residence**, which can be a rental certificate or a bill in your name. Often you will also need a tax identification number, which you can obtain from the tax office.

Opening an account

The next step is to go to a bank or savings bank in Remscheid. There you will speak to an employee who will help you open an account. You will need to fill in a form that asks for some personal details. It is important that you have all the necessary documents with you so that the opening process is quick and easy:

- You have opened the account. You will then receive an **EC card with a four-digit PIN code by post**. Sign the back of the debit card and memorise the PIN code. You will need the PIN code for cashless payments. You will need the PIN code for cash withdrawals at ATMs. Always keep your card and PIN code separate!
- **Withdraw money from your bank's ATMs**. Then the withdrawal costs nothing. If you enter the PIN code incorrectly three times, the bank will withdraw your card and block it. In this case, you must ask your bank.
- Have you lost your EC card? Has your EC card been stolen? **Then have the EC card blocked immediately**. Tell them your sort code and account number. Then ask your bank for a new EC card.

Central blocking number in Germany:

☎ 116 116

🕒 Around the clock.

- Another important point is **online banking**. Many banks offer this option so that you can manage your account from the comfort of your own home. Ask how you can sign up for online banking if you are interested.

Different banks offer current accounts on **different terms**. Find out exactly how much a current account costs each month. Compare the services that the bank offers in return.

Do you receive benefits from **the job centre**? Then you can find more information [here](#).

Taxes and tax returns

Taxes are important. They help the state to function. They provide the state with money for public spending. It can be used to build roads. It is used to pay teachers and police officers. It finances many important things.

You pay taxes everywhere. When you go shopping, when you eat out, when you fill up with petrol. That's the **sales tax**. And when you work. That's **income tax**. Are you employed? Then your employer has already deducted your taxes. Are you self-employed? Then you have to pay tax on your income yourself.

Tax identification number

The tax ID is an 11-digit number and is used for income tax purposes. The number is valid for your entire life. The authorities can always identify you with this number. Your place of work requires this number. You do not have this number in your documents? You can obtain it in person from the registration office. Or by filling in a form at the [Federal Central Tax Office](#).

💡 Do you need help with your tax return? It is best to contact one of the [local income tax associations](#). If you have further questions, the [tax office](#) can also help you:

Finanzamt Remscheid

📍 [Wupperstraße 10, 42897 Remscheid](#)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 21116551655](#)

🌐 <https://www.finanzamt.nrw.de/mein-finanzamt/finan...>

💡 Please make [an appointment online](#) in advance.

Mobile data

Provider

Mobile data are internet connections that you can use with your smartphone or tablet. You can use it to surf the Internet, send messages and use apps even when you are not at home. Mobile data is provided via your provider's mobile network. To use mobile data, you need a **mobile phone contract**. There are many mobile phone providers in Germany, such as [Telekom](#), [Vodafone](#) or [O2](#). Compare the offers and prices to find the best provider for you. Online

comparison portals (e.g. [Check24](#) and [Verivox](#)) can help.

Contract

You can choose a contract with a **fixed term** (e.g. 24 months) or **prepaid contracts**. With a prepaid contract, you pay in advance and can top up your data as required. You will need your identity card or passport for the contract. Sometimes you also need to provide an address. Once you have decided on a provider, you sign the contract. Make sure you read the terms and conditions carefully.

💡 **You do not need the Internet to use Integreat.**

If you have any questions about the contract, you can contact the consumer advice centre:

Verbraucherzentrale NRW Beratungsstelle Remscheid

📍 [Alleestraße 32, 42853 Remscheid](#)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 21918424791](#)

🌐 <https://www.verbraucherzentrale.nrw/beratungsstel...>

Religion and worldview

Freedom of religion prevails in Germany. This is guaranteed by the Basic Law. You can practise your faith as you see fit, as long as you do not violate the Basic Law. You may also not be discriminated against on the basis of your religion, for example when looking for work. Religious freedom also means accepting the beliefs of others. Germany does not have a state church. State and religion are largely separate.

This means, for example:

- All people are free to choose and practise their own religion and beliefs
- All people have the freedom to be non-religious - anyone who does not believe in God is allowed to say so publicly
- People of different religions and beliefs are allowed to marry each other
- Marriage only counts as a legally binding marriage before the registry office. Marriages entered into exclusively within the framework of a religion are not legally binding in Germany
- Religious laws do not determine the legal system in Germany

Further information on this topic and on religious organisations can be found [here](#).

Insurances

Compulsory insurances Health insurance In Germany, every person must have health insurance. This is a law. Health insurance helps you if you have to go to the doctor or are ill. You can find more information [here](#).

Car insurance

Do you have a car, motorbike or other vehicle? Then you need [motor vehicle liability insurance](#). This is compulsory insurance. You are not allowed to register your vehicle without it.

This insurance is for:

- cars
- Motorbikes and scooters, mopeds and quads
- motorhomes
- E-scooters and other vehicles

You must show the registration office that you have this insurance.

Voluntary insurances

Liability insurance

Liability insurance helps you if you accidentally break something that belongs to another person. For example:

You break a vase.

You accidentally spill coffee on a friend's mobile phone.

The insurance then pays for the damage. Many people in Germany have this insurance. It doesn't cost much and protects you from having to pay for the damage yourself with your own money.

Household contents insurance

This insurance protects your belongings at home - i.e. furniture, clothing or appliances in your flat or house. If your belongings, for example:

- are stolen,
- are destroyed in a fire,
- are damaged by a storm or water damage,

you will receive money from the insurance company. How much the insurance costs also depends on the size of your home.

Legal expenses insurance

This insurance helps if you have a legal dispute - for example, if you need a lawyer. It then pays the costs. There are different types, e.g. for transport only or for many areas of life.

Experts say: Think carefully about whether you really need this insurance. If there is trouble with your flat, for example, tenants' associations can also help - you don't necessarily need major legal expenses insurance for this.

Do you have any questions about insurance or would you like advice? You can contact the [consumer advice centre](#):

Verbraucherzentrale NRW Beratungsstelle Remscheid

📍 [Alleestraße 32, 42853 Remscheid](#)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 21918424791](tel:+49(0)21918424791)

🌐 <https://www.verbraucherzentrale.nrw/beratungsstel...>

You can enquire about the individual offers from providers via the usual comparison portals, such as [Check24](#) or [Verivox](#).

Mobility

Driving licence and driving a car

A driving licence can be very useful. Especially if you live in a village or a small, remote town. Often there are no public transport connections here. Then a driving licence is helpful. And buying a car is often necessary. Would you like to get a German driving licence? Or do you already have a driving licence from your home country? And would now like to transfer it? Conversion means that the driving licence is also valid in Germany. We provide you with this information on this page.

Is my driving licence valid in Germany?

Would you like to drive in Germany yourself? Then you need a **driving licence from Germany or another EU country**. **Driving licences from non-EU countries** are only valid for **six months** in Germany. You may only drive in Germany with a driving licence from your home country for the first six months. The six months begin with your first police registration in Germany. You must always have your driving licence with you when you drive. You must also have a translation of your driving licence into German with you.

If you are only visiting Germany, you may drive with your foreign or international driving licence. You must always have your driving licence with you when you drive.

💡 During your asylum procedure, all your documents will remain with the BAMF. You will normally only get them back once your asylum procedure has been completed. As long as your driving licence is with the BAMF, you are not allowed to drive yourself.

Would you like to drive yourself even after six months? Then have your driving licence transferred.

How do I transfer my driving licence?

Contact your local driving licence authority or driving licence office. It can sometimes take a while before you receive an answer. The authority sometimes receives a lot of applications at once. Contact the relevant authority before your six-month driving licence expires. You must go to the driving licence office in person. You will need to present various documents there:

- ID card or passport
- Confirmation of registration (police registration)
- Biometric passport photo
- Certificate of an eye test (from an optician or ophthalmologist)

- Confirmation of participation in a first aid course. You can find a course in your area, e.g. at the ASB or the Johanniter.
- Your original foreign driving licence (an international driving licence is not sufficient). As a rule, you must also submit a certified German translation.
- a declaration that your foreign driving licence is still valid.

The **driving licence office** will then decide whether your driving licence can be converted without a test. Otherwise, you must first take the theory and practical test. This depends on the country in which you obtained your driving licence.

💡 It is a good idea to attend a driving school before taking the test. Germany has a lot of traffic rules and signs. However, unlike those who are getting their driving licence for the first time, you do not have to take driving lessons.

Stadt Remscheid, Führerscheinstelle

📍 [Elberfelder Straße 36, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@ Fahrerlaubnisbehoerde@remscheid.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191163531](tel:+492012191163531)

💡 Please make an appointment [online](#) in advance.

How can I get a German driving licence?

To get a driving licence for the first time, proceed as follows:

- Register with a driving school. In large cities, there are driving schools with driving instructors who speak Arabic and Persian, for example. You can find driving schools in your area at drivolino.de or fahrschulen.de.
- Take part in a first aid course. You can find a course in your area at the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund or the Johanniter.
- Have an eye test at an optician or an ophthalmologist. The eye test costs around 7 euros. Some opticians also offer the eye test free of charge.
- Have a biometric passport photo taken.


Can my driving licence be revoked?

If you disregard important traffic rules, you can lose your driving licence. A distinction is made here between a driving ban and the withdrawal of your driving licence.

- If you are banned from driving, you must surrender your driving licence to the fines office for several months. During this time, you are not allowed to drive yourself. After the period has expired, you can collect your driving licence again.
- If your driving licence is revoked, it loses its validity. This means that you are no longer allowed to drive yourself and may not obtain a new driving licence for a certain period of time (suspension period).

Have you endangered road traffic? Have you been driving drunk? Have you collected 8 penalty points? These are reasons to revoke your driving licence.


You receive penalty points for various offences, for example if you drive too fast. Penalty points are also known colloquially as "points in Flensburg".


 **Have you just obtained your driving licence?** Then you are two years into your probationary period. You have broken the traffic rules during the probationary period. Then you have to attend an advanced training seminar. You may also have to undergo psychological counselling. Your probationary period will also be extended by a further two years. You do not take part in the advanced training seminar and the counselling? Then your driving licence will be revoked. Examples of a traffic offence are, for example, driving through red traffic lights, driving at night without lights, drunk driving. Wrong parking is not a traffic offence. In this case, you only have to pay the fine.

Registering or re-registering a vehicle

Vehicles (including trailers) may only be used on public roads if they are registered and have an official licence plate. To register (register) a vehicle for the first time or to re-register it (if you have bought it from a private individual), you can contact the registration authority in Remscheid.

Stadt Remscheid, KFZ-Zulassungsstelle

 [Elberfelder Straße 32-36, 42853 Remscheid](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 2191162200](#)


Please make [an appointment online](#) in advance.

Public transport and bicycle

You can reach many places around your home by **public transport**. You can also **cycle**. Exercise is healthy. Cycling is inexpensive. Cycling is also environmentally friendly.

Public transport

To get to your destination in Remscheid, you can use public transport. These are buses and trains.

 Travelling without a ticket will be penalised! You must have a valid ticket for every journey. Otherwise you will pay a heavy fine.

You can find a timetable and information on prices on the website of the [Remscheid public transport company](#).

Bicycle

Are you going to be travelling longer in Remscheid? Then it's worth buying a bike. It's cheaper than travelling by public transport.

📍 Important traffic rules for cyclists (selection):

- Always ride on the right-hand side of the carriageway.
- Do not ride next to each other, but behind each other.
- If there is a cycle path, you must ride on the cycle path (always on the right-hand side of the road in the direction of travel).
- Children up to the age of 11 may use the footpaths on bicycles.
- It is forbidden to use a mobile phone on a bicycle.

📍 Purchase and repairs: Pay attention when buying. Your bike must be equipped as follows. This means it is roadworthy. Otherwise you will have to pay a fine if you are stopped by the police.

- Front and rear lights
- Reflector front and rear
- Reflectors in the spokes (2 per wheel)
- Reflectors on the pedals
- Bell
- Two independent brakes

Do you have problems with your bike? Then the repair café can help you:

Diakonie im Kirchenkreis Lennep - Reparaturen-Café - Fahrradwerkstatt

📍 [Hohenhagener Straße 9, 42855 Remscheid](#)

@ reparaturen-cafe@diakonie-kklennep.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191591600](tel:+49(0)2191591600)

🌐 <https://www.diakonie-remscheid.de/reparaturencafe...>

Waste separation

Waste separation means that different types of waste are collected and recycled separately. In Germany, waste separation starts directly with the consumer. This means that every household has to sort its own waste and throw it into different bins and containers. The majority of waste in Germany is recycled and composted, which conserves resources and protects the environment. Basically, avoiding waste is still the easiest way to do something about the growing mountains of rubbish.

If you throw something in the wrong bin, the employees or sorting facilities at the recycling centres have to sort it again. If we all sort correctly, we can avoid this effort, reduce costs and do something for the environment.

What goes in which bin?

The waste bins in Germany have different colours. The colours show you which waste can go in which bin. In large cities, the bins are often located right next to the house. In the countryside,

you may have to drive to a recycling centre to find all the bins. Or you may have to wait for the next collection date for certain rubbish. In the meantime, you can store the rubbish in your garage or cellar, for example. You can find out when which waste is collected in the so-called "waste calendar", which you can find in your letterbox every year or collect from the town hall.

💡 Only certain rubbish may be thrown into each bin!

What belongs in the paper bin, the glass container or the yellow bin/yellow bag? You can find more information on the website of [Technische Betriebe Remscheid](#) (also available in [Turkish](#), [Spanish](#), [Croatian](#), [Italian](#), [French](#), [Arabic](#) and [English](#)).

What belongs to organic waste? You can find all the information you need on the website of [Technischen Betriebe](#) Remscheid (also available in [Turkish](#), [Spanish](#), [Croatian](#), [Italian](#), [French](#), [Arabic](#) and [English](#)).

Do I have to separate my rubbish?

Yes, waste separation is compulsory in Germany. Everyone must separate their rubbish correctly and put it in the right bins. **If you do not adhere to the rules on waste separation, your landlord can give you a warning.** If you do not change your behaviour, you may even lose your flat. Your landlord will also charge you for the costs incurred as a result of incorrect waste separation. If you own your own home, incorrect waste separation will increase your waste disposal bill. Incorrect waste separation is also an offence. If you are caught, you will have to pay a fine. If you repeatedly fail to separate waste or separate it incorrectly, this fine can even amount to several hundred or thousand euros.

Work and training

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: [Work](#)

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.

Education

Basic information on training

Why a vocational qualification is important

Would you like to work in Germany? Then a professional qualification is very important. With a professional qualification, you will earn more money and you are less likely to lose your job. You are more likely to get permanent employment contracts.

In Germany, you need certificates. These show what you can do.

How do you get a vocational qualification?

- You do **an apprenticeship**.
- Or your vocational qualification from abroad is recognised.

What professions are there?

There are around 320 training occupations in Germany. These are in many areas, for example

- Industry
- skilled trades
- Home economics
- agriculture
- Public service
- Maritime shipping

The number may change. There are new professions and old professions are being adapted.


How do I find the right profession?


First think about it: What do I want to do?

You can find out about professions here:

- **Berufenet**
 [Homepage - BERUFENET](#)

Berufsinformationszentrum (BiZ)

 [Hünefeldstr. 10a, 42285 Wuppertal](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 222828460](#)

 <https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/bildung/berufsinfor...>

Internship

An internship is a good introduction to the world of work in Germany. Here you can gain your first experience in a profession and also improve your language skills. An internship can often be the start of an apprenticeship.

It usually lasts 2-4 weeks, sometimes up to 3 months and is unpaid. If an internship lasts longer than 3 months, the employer must pay the minimum wage.

💡 It is important that you inform the job centre (people with residence status) or the foreigners authority (people in the ongoing procedure and toleration) before starting the internship.

How can I find an internship?

You can search for internships on the Internet:

- [Trainee Atlas](#) of the Bergische Chamber of Industry and Commerce
- [Apprenticeship radar](#)
- [Ausbildung.NRW](#)
- [Federal Employment Agency](#)

Pupils up to year 13 can also search for an internship here:

- [Internship portal of the city of Remscheid](#)

Requirements for an apprenticeship

If you want to do an apprenticeship, you need to fulfil certain requirements. These are

- **School-leaving certificate**
In most cases, you need a first extended school-leaving certificate or an intermediate school-leaving certificate. Some apprenticeships are also possible without a qualification.
- **Interest in the profession**
You should be interested in the profession and enjoy learning.
- **German language skills**
You should speak and understand German well so that you can learn everything at school and in the company.
- **Practical skills**
In many professions it is important to be able to work with your hands or deal with people.
- **Reliability**
Punctuality and diligence are very important in training.
- **Application**
You have to write an [application](#) and often have an interview.

With these prerequisites, you can start an apprenticeship and have a good start to your professional life.

Financial support during training

Vocational training allowance (BAB)

If the money you earn during your training is not enough, you can ask the employment agency or job centre for supportive funding. This supportive financing is called vocational training allowance (BAB).

You can find out which requirements you need to fulfil in order to receive BAB on the website of the [Federal Employment Agency](#).

💡 You do not earn any money during school-based training. You can apply for [BaföG](#) for financial support.

Vocational training (dual and full-time)

Dual training

Dual training (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. The duration of an apprenticeship depends on the training occupation. As a rule, it lasts 3 years. If you have a high school diploma, you can also shorten the apprenticeship. At the end of the training period, you will take an examination. If you pass the exam, you can then work in this profession. There is no age limit for an apprenticeship. The advantage of dual training is that you earn money during your training.


How do I find the right apprenticeship?

You can find out more about apprenticeships here:

- **Berufenet**

 <https://web.arbeitsagentur.de/berufenet/>

Berufsinformationszentrum (BiZ)

 [Hünefeldstr. 10a, 42285 Wuppertal](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 222828460](#)

 <https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/bildung/berufsinfor...>


•

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

Kreishandwerkerschaft Remscheid

 [Hindenburgstr. 60, 42853 Remscheid](#)

 [@info@handwerk-remscheid.de](mailto:info@handwerk-remscheid.de)

 [+49 \(0\) 219122005](#)

 <https://www.dashandwerk.de/remscheid/ausbildung/>

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.

Bergische Industrie- und Handelskammer (IHK)

 [Heinrich-Kamp-Platz 2, 42103 Wuppertal](#)

@ihk@bergische.ihk.de

+49 (0) 20224900

<https://www.ihk.de/bergische/aus-weiterbildung/az...>

If you are looking for an apprenticeship, you can find it here:

- [Apprenticeship Atlas](#) of the Bergische Chamber of Industry and Commerce
- [Apprenticeship radar](#)
- [Training.NRW](#)
- [Federal Employment Agency](#)

Full-time training at a vocational school

In Germany, there is also full-time school-based training at a vocational college. The vocational school at a vocational college provides 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. Instruction takes place full-time. In addition to vocational subjects, it also includes general education subjects. The school-based training often includes a work placement. Vocational schools vary 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.

Berufskolleg Wirtschaft und Verwaltung

[Schmalkalder Str. 5, 42859 Remscheid](#)

@schule@bwv-rs.de

+49 (0) 2191499450

<https://bwv-rs.de/>

Käthe-Kollwitz-Berufskolleg

[Freiheitstraße 146, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@sekretariat@kkb-rs.de


+49 (0) 2191782063

<https://kkb-rs.de/>

Berufskolleg Technik

[Neuenkamper Straße 55, 42855 Remscheid](#)

@sekretariat@btr-rs.de

 [+49 \(0\) 21914617000](tel:+49(0)21914617000)

 <https://btr-rs.de/>

You can find an overview of school-based apprenticeships in the region [here](#).

You do not earn any money during a school-based training programme. You can apply for [student loans \(Schüler-BaföG\)](#) for financial support.

Part-time training

Part-time training is vocational training in which working hours are reduced.

This is a good solution for people who have little time. (For example, if people have to look after children, care for parents or do a language course). The training takes place at two locations. One place is the vocational school. This is where you learn a lot for your job. Another place is the company. This is where you work.

With part-time training, you work less in the company. This gives you more free time. You still get a vocational qualification.

You can find more information here: [Part-time vocational training](#)

Entry and residence for training purposes

Entry for training

Would you like to do an apprenticeship in Germany? You can enter Germany to look for a training place. To do so, you must fulfil certain requirements:

- a visa (depending on which country you come from)
- School-leaving certificate (required depending on the training occupation)
- Language skills (usually B1 level)

You can find out more about this on the pages of: [make-it-in-germany](#)

Please enquire in good time in your country.

Stay during and after training

If you have travelled to Germany with a visa, you can stay for up to twelve months. Before your visa expires, you must apply for a residence permit at the Foreigners' Registration Office. With the residence permit, you can stay for the duration of your training.

Do you come from a third country and have successfully completed your vocational training in Germany? You can be granted a residence permit for up to 18 months to look for a job in Germany following your vocational training.

Training authorisation

Tolerated stay for training

People with a tolerated stay permit can obtain a tolerated stay permit for training. Duldung means that your asylum application has been rejected, but you are still allowed to stay in Germany.

With tolerated leave to remain in Germany for the duration of your training. You may not be deported during this time.

Important requirements:

- Your asylum procedure has been completed.
- You have had a tolerated stay permit for at least 3 months.
- Or: You have already started your training during the asylum procedure.
- You are starting a training programme lasting at least 2 years. It must be a state-recognised, qualified vocational training course. You can find an overview of the recognised professions at the [Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training \(BIBB\)](#)
- Or: You first complete a state-recognised qualified assistant training or helper training. You must then start a 2-year training programme in a shortage occupation. You will need a confirmation of enrolment for this.
- Your identity must be verified.

What happens after the training?

If you have a permanent job:

- You will receive a residence permit for 2 years.
- After that, you can extend your residence permit.

If you do not have a permanent job:

- Your tolerated stay permit will be extended for 6 months.
- You can look for a job during this time.

When will the tolerated stay permit be refused?

- If you have not clarified your identity or do not have a passport.
- If you have committed a criminal offence.
- If a deportation order has been issued.

Important for companies:

If a trainee cancels their training, this must be reported to the immigration authorities.

New option: training residence permit

Since 1 March 2024, there has been a new rule: the training residence permit.

The requirements are almost the same as for the Ausbildungsduldung. In addition, you must:

- Be able to pay your own living expenses.
- Have a passport.

Further information is available from the [Netzwerk Unternehmen integrieren Flüchtlinge](#).

After the training

What can you do after your training?

Have you completed your training in Germany? Now you have many options! Find out what you can do here:

Work in a company

Many companies in Germany are looking for skilled workers. Perhaps your training company will take you on directly. If not, you can find a new company.

Further training and a career

Would you like to learn more and take on more responsibility? Then you can do further training. This will allow you to specialise or even become self-employed. Which further training is possible depends on your profession.

- **Technical professions**

Do you work in construction or mechanical engineering? Then you can become a "state-certified technician". To do this, you attend a technical college and take an examination. The full-time training programme lasts at least two years.

- **Craft trades**

Have you learnt a skilled trade? Then you can become a master craftsman or woman. The master craftsman title is a recognised qualification. Master craftsmen and women often work in management positions or set up their own companies. They are also authorised to train apprentices.

- **Other professions**

There are further training programmes in every profession. You can specialise in a particular field. You can find out what options are available at [BERUFENET](#).

If you do further training, you may be able to get money from the state: the "**Aufstiegs-BAföG**". You can find all the information you need on the website of the [Cologne district government](#).

Studying after your apprenticeship

You can also study after your apprenticeship. To do this, you usually need a certificate that authorises you to study in your home country.

There are exceptions:

If you have a German master craftsman's certificate, you can study any subject.

Do you not have a master craftsman's certificate, but you do have training and work experience? Then you may be able to study a degree programme that matches your profession. Enquire at the university.

Would you like to work and study at the same time? That's possible in Germany. You can study in your free time, part-time or at a distance learning university. You can find more information on this under "[Study](#)".

Labour agency measures

The Employment Agency helps young people. It will help you if you are looking for an apprenticeship.
And it will help you if you are already doing an apprenticeship and need support.

There are various offers:

Careers counselling

Careers counselling helps you to find the right career.
You can speak to a counsellor.
They will tell you what options you have.
They will help you with your application or with your search for an internship or apprenticeship.
Counselling is free of charge.

Jugendberufsagentur Remscheid

 [Konrad-Adenauer-Straße 2-4, 42853 Remscheid](#)

 [@info@jba-remscheid.de](mailto:info@jba-remscheid.de)

 [+49 \(0\) 21914606345](tel:+49(0)21914606345)

 <https://www.jba-remscheid.de/>

Activation support for younger people

Are you young and don't yet know what you want to do? Activation assistance will help you start your career.
You will learn about different professions. You get help with writing job applications.
You can do a work placement.
The goal: an apprenticeship or a job.

Entry qualification (EQ)

Entry qualification is a work placement. It lasts several months. You work in a company and learn a profession.
You get paid for it. If it goes well, you can do an apprenticeship afterwards.

Vocational preparation programme (BvB)

Are you no longer required to attend school?
Have you not yet found a training place?
Perhaps you don't have a school-leaving certificate?
Or have you lost your training place and need to find a new direction?

Then you can prepare for an apprenticeship in a pre-vocational training programme (BvB) run by the Federal Employment Agency. The BvB usually lasts up to 10 months.

Extra-company vocational training (BaE)

Are you having problems finding a place on a training programme? Then an external vocational training programme may be an option for you.

This training takes place in the workshops of the training centre or in cooperation with a training company. Like all trainees, you will also attend vocational school. The educational institution is the trainer.

Further information can be found on the website of the [Federal Employment Agency](#).

Flexible assisted training (AsA flex)

Assisted training (AsA) helps you to find a training position or successfully complete your training. An expert on site will help you with problems in the company, for example. Tutoring can also be organised for you if required. Assisted training can also help you during an entry-level qualification (EQ).

You will also receive help after your training. For example, when looking for a job. Or if you are looking for another training position.

The target group is young people

- who would like to complete a vocational training programme,
- who need support to successfully complete a vocational training programme or introductory qualification,
- who are looking for a job after their vocational training.

Assisted training is free of charge. You can obtain more information from the [employment agency](#) or your local job centre in Remscheid.

Assistance during training (abH)

Are you doing an apprenticeship but having difficulties? Then the training-related assistance can help you.

You will receive help with learning - for example with maths or German. You will also receive support with problems at work.

This will help you to complete your training.

Labour

Looking for and finding work - counselling and help

Are you looking for a job?

First [check](#) whether you are authorised to work in Germany. Depending on the job, a good knowledge of German is expected. Your chances of finding a job will be much better if you already [speak German](#).

Finding a suitable job is not always easy. There are many contact points in Remscheid that can help you.

Counselling and support

The Employment Agency or the Remscheid Job Centre can help you with your job search and application:

Jobcenter Remscheid

📍 [Bismarckstr. 8-10, 42853 Remscheid](#)

✉ @jobcenter-remscheid@jobcenter-ge.de

☎ [+4921919518222](tel:+4921919518222)

🌐 <https://www.jobcenter-remscheid.de/>

Agentur für Arbeit Remscheid

📍 [Bismarckstr. 8, 42853 Remscheid](#)

☎ [+492022828111](tel:+492022828111)

🌐 <https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/vor-ort/solingen-wu...>

Jugendberufsagentur Remscheid | Arbeit

📍 [Konrad-Adenauer-Straße 2-4, 42853 Remscheid](#)

✉ @info@jba-remscheid.de

☎ [+4921919518200](tel:+4921919518200)

🌐 <https://www.jba-remscheid.de/>

The counselling services offered by the Youth Employment Agency are aimed at young people.

Further advice centres in the area of work

There are other centres that can support you in your job search:

KIM Case Management at the Municipal Integration Centre, Caritas or Diakonie

or:

Diakonie im Kirchenkreis Lennep | Beratungsstelle Arbeit

📍 [Schulgasse 1, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@ beratungsstellenarbeit-rs@diakonie-kklennep.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191591600](tel:+49(0)2191591600)

🌐 <https://www.diakonie-remscheid.de/beratung/arbeit...>

Caritasverband Remscheid e.V.

📍 [Blumenstr. 30, 42853 Remscheid](#)

Elena Lissy | Arbeitsmarktintegration von Geflüchteten

@ fim@caritas-rs.de

☎ [+49219169447023](tel:+49219169447023)

🌐 <https://www.caritas-remscheid.de/hilfe-angebote/m...>

Arbeit Remscheid

📍 [Freiheitstr. 181, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@ info@arbeit-remscheid.de

☎ [+492191951460](tel:+492191951460)

🌐 <https://www.arbeit-remscheid.de/>

Rocco Cirillo | Private Arbeitsvermittlung

@ cirillo@arbeit-remscheid.de

☎ [+4921919514706](tel:+4921919514706)

🌐 <https://www.arbeit-remscheid.de/projekte/private-...>

This service is free of charge on presentation of an activation and placement voucher from the employment agency or job centre.

Look for work yourself

There are many ways to find a job. There are many adverts on the Internet or in local newspapers. You can also look directly on company websites to see if there is a job on offer.

Job search on the Internet

You can usually search online job exchanges according to these criteria:

- Profession or activity (enter the profession or industry in which you would like to work)
- Location (enter the city in which you are looking for work)
- Vicinity (enter the maximum distance from your place of residence)
- Type of employment (full-time, part-time or mini-job)

There are many job exchanges on the Internet, here is a selection:

- [Job exchange Agentur für Arbeit](#)
- [Career Bergisches Land](#)
- [Meinestadt](#)
- [Workeer](#) (job exchange for international and refugee talent)
- [Jobbörse.de](#) (jobs for refugees)
- [Job portal of the Rheinische Post \(newspaper\)](#)
- [Kimeta](#)
- [Stellenonline](#)
- [Monster](#)
- [Stepstone](#)
- [Indeed](#)
- [Stellenanzeigen.de](#)

Other ways to find a job:

- Company websites (you can find a [database of craft businesses](#) on the website of the Bergische Kreishandwerkerschaft)
- Ask the companies personally or call them

- Job information fairs (you can find a [calendar of events](#) on the website of the city of Remscheid)
- social media
- Ask your circle of acquaintances

💡 Once you have found a job that interests you, you need to [apply](#).

Labour market access

EU citizens and persons with a residence permit

💡 You come from the **EU**? Do you now live in Germany? And you would like to work? Then you can do so without any problems. As an EU citizen, anyone can work in Germany. Without restrictions.

💡 If you have been **recognised** by the BAMF as a person entitled to asylum, refugee status or subsidiary protection, the [foreigners authority](#) will issue you with a residence permit. This entitles you to pursue any gainful employment and thus grants you full access to the labour market.

Asylum seekers or tolerated persons

Have you fled to Germany? Then your [residence status](#) is important. It determines whether you are allowed to work. We explain the differences below. You will also find the relevant advice centres below.

Asylum seekers with proof of arrival or authorisation to stay:

Would you like to work? The foreigners authority can authorise you to do so. You must submit an application there. The Federal Employment Agency (BA) must give its approval. You must observe the following rules so that the authority can make a decision.

📍 Are you living in an initial reception centre (EAE)? Then the following applies:

- 9 months work ban (6 months if you have underage children) from the date of entry
- After that you are normally allowed to work. Submit an application to your local authority.
- The Federal Employment Agency will then check the working conditions.

💡 Has your asylum application been rejected as manifestly unfounded or inadmissible? Then you are not allowed to work.

📍 Are you living in your own home or with family? Then the following applies:

- 3 months work ban from entry
- After that you are normally allowed to work. Submit an application to your local authority.
- The Federal Employment Agency will then check the working conditions.

Asylum seekers from safe countries of origin

Do you come from a safe country of origin? These include Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ghana, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Senegal and Serbia. Did you apply for asylum after 31 August 2015? Then you are not allowed to work.

Tolerated people

The [foreigners authority](#) always decides whether you are allowed to work. You must therefore submit an application to the foreigners authority. The foreigners authority can impose a general work ban on you. There are certain rules that you must observe.

💡 Persons with a tolerated stay permit due to unclear identity (§ 60b AufenthG) are always prohibited from working.

📍 Are you living in an initial reception centre (EAE)? Then the following applies:

- 6 months work ban
- Your tolerated stay has already lasted 6 months? Then the foreigners authority will decide whether you are allowed to work. Submit an application to your authority.
- The Federal Employment Agency will check your working conditions.

📍 Are you living in your own home or with family? Then the following applies:

- 3 months work ban
- Has your tolerated stay permit already lasted 3 months? Then the foreigners authority will decide whether you are allowed to work. Submit an application to your authority.
- The Federal Employment Agency will check the working conditions.

Important!

💡 Different rules apply to [self-employment](#)! The prerequisite for the above applications is ALWAYS a concrete job offer.

Counselling centres

For advice and placement in the labour market, there are the following contact points specifically for refugees - here too, there are differences depending on whether your asylum procedure is still ongoing or whether you are recognised or tolerated.

The Employment Agency and the Job Centre are available as contacts for all topics relating to training and employment.

Jobcenter Remscheid

📍 [Bismarckstr. 8-10, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@jobcenter-remscheid@jobcenter-ge.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 21919518222](tel:+49021919518222)

🌐 <https://www.jobcenter-remscheid.de/>

Agentur für Arbeit Remscheid

📍 [Bismarckstr. 8, 42853 Remscheid](#)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2022828111](#)

🌐 <https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/vor-ort/solingen-wu...>

In addition to other information, you can also obtain advice and assistance on access to the labour market for refugees at the following location:

- [KIM Case Management](#)

Labour contract

Anyone who starts a job is given an employment contract. This regulates the most important conditions of your work. It states when you work. How much holiday you get. It states how much money you will receive. Both sides - employee and employer - must honour these agreements. The contract becomes legally binding when you sign it. Only sign it once you have fully understood the content.

Types of contract:

Open-ended employment contract

There is usually a probationary period of three or six months. During this period, an employment relationship can be terminated within two weeks. The employer can terminate the contract. You as an employee can also give notice. At the end of the probationary period, a permanent employment relationship begins. This has longer protection against dismissal. Working hours are normally a maximum of 40 hours per week.

Fixed-term employment contract

The employment relationship ends at the agreed time without the need for notice of termination.

Mini job

The maximum earnings per month are € 556 and are tax-free.

Labour law:

There are many laws in Germany that regulate and safeguard the rights of employees. These include, for example

- [Regulation of working hours](#)
- [minimum wage](#)
- [holiday entitlement](#)
- [Protection against dismissal](#)
- [Company representation of interests \(works council\)](#)
- [Regulation of the work of trade unions](#)

- [and some more](#)

Taxes and social security contributions:

Every employee in Germany pays a portion of their wages in taxes. The federal, state and local authorities use this to finance their expenditure. Employers, in turn, are obliged to pay social security contributions for their employees. These social security contributions finance the social security system in Germany. The system guarantees that you will receive money from the state if you are out of work.

Tax identification number:

The tax ID is an 11-digit number and is used for income tax purposes. The number is valid for your entire life. The authorities can always identify you with this number. Your place of work requires this number. You do not have this number in your documents? You can obtain it in person from the registration office. Or by filling in a form at the [Federal Central Tax Office](#).

National insurance number:

You need a national insurance number for a job. You can obtain this from your health insurance company (e.g. AOK, DAK).

Illegal work:

You have a job that is paid. But this work is not registered with the tax office and health insurance fund. You therefore do not pay taxes and social security contributions. This is **illegal**. You could face fines and imprisonment! Do you receive social benefits or unemployment benefit? But you are still working? You haven't told the social welfare office, the employment agency or the job centre? That is also **illegal**. You are wrongly receiving state benefits even though you are in paid work.

Legal information on the subject of labour

Labour contract

When you start a new job, you will receive an employment contract.

This contains important rules, for example

- How long you work (working hours)
- How much holiday you get (holiday days)
- How much money you earn (salary)
- How and when you can give notice (notice periods)

Both sides - you and your boss - must adhere to the contract.

Important:

The contract applies as soon as you sign it. Read it carefully beforehand!

There are rules even without a written contract!

An employment contract can also be verbal (spoken) or silent (without words).

This means that if you are working and your boss says nothing, there is still a contract.

If you work, you have to be paid - even without a written contract!

There are two types of contract:

1. open-ended employment contract

- There is usually a probationary period (3 or 6 months).
- During this period, you can give notice quickly (2 weeks' notice).
- After that, you have more protection and a longer notice period.
- You often work up to 40 hours a week.

2. fixed-term employment contract

- The contract ends automatically on a specific day.
- Cancellation is not necessary.

Cancellation

A **dismissal** terminates the employment relationship between employer and employee.

There are two types of termination:

1. Self-termination:

If you resign yourself, you say yourself that you no longer wish to work. You must do this in writing and observe a notice period. This is usually four weeks.

2. termination by the employer:

The employer can also give notice. They must also observe a notice period. The notice period may vary depending on the duration of the employment relationship. There is also special protection against dismissal for certain groups, such as pregnant women or people with disabilities.

Ordinary termination:

Ordinary dismissal is the normal dismissal where a notice period is observed. It can be given by the employer or the employee. The employee must continue to work during the notice period.

Extraordinary termination:

Extraordinary termination (also known as termination without notice) can be given if there is good cause. This means that the employment relationship ends immediately and without a notice period. An important reason can be, for example

- Theft
- Violence in the workplace
- Constant refusal to work
- Serious insult

Extraordinary dismissal must take place immediately after the incident as soon as the reason becomes known. No notice period needs to be observed for this termination.

Notice period:

The notice period is the time between the notice of termination and the last working day. This period can vary depending on how long you have worked for the company.

Protection against dismissal:

In some cases, employers are not allowed to simply dismiss. For example, if someone is pregnant or has a severe disability.

Important information:

- Written notice of termination is required.
- Justification: The employer must often have a good reason for the dismissal (e.g. in the case of termination during the employment relationship).
- If you do not agree with the dismissal, you can file a complaint with the labour court within three weeks.

Job reference

A **reference** is a letter that the employer gives to the employee when they leave the company. The reference describes what the employee has done and how good their work was.

What types of references are there?**1. simple reference:**

A simple reference is issued when the employment relationship ends. It states what the employee did in the company and how long they worked there. There is no evaluation.

2. qualified reference:

In addition to the work activities, a qualified reference also contains an assessment of the employee's performance and behaviour. Employees can request this reference. It is not always given automatically.

3rd interim reference:

An interim reference can be requested at any time during employment if the employee has a good reason for doing so, for example if there are changes in the company or the employee moves to another department. In this way, the performance evaluation remains documented.

4th Training certificate:

A training certificate is issued when training or retraining ends. It shows what the trainee has learnt and how well they have completed their training.

Important to know

- An employer's reference must be true and formulated in a friendly manner. The employer must not penalise the employee.
- If a reference is incorrect or unfair, the employee can request an amendment.

Certificate of good conduct and health certificate

A **certificate of good conduct** shows whether someone has done anything illegal in the course of their life. Some employers want to see this certificate to make sure that the person has not committed any bad offences, especially for jobs where you work with other people.

A **health certificate** shows whether someone is healthy to do a particular job. It is often required if someone is working in a job where it is important to be healthy, for example in a restaurant or working with food. It also shows that you don't have any diseases that could infect other people.

Both certificates are important to ensure that someone is suitable and healthy for the job.

Mini job

A **mini-job** is a job that allows you to earn a maximum of 556 euros per month. The amount used to be lower, but today the maximum amount is 556 euros.

Types of mini-jobs

There are two main types of mini-job:

- **The 556 euro mini-job:**
In this job, you earn a maximum of 556 euros a month. The number of hours you can work depends on your hourly wage.
- **The short-term mini-job:**
Here you only work for a short period of the year, either 3 months or a maximum of 70 days. The salary can vary.

Important information about mini-jobs

- Mini-jobs are not exempt from social security contributions, but you have to pay fewer contributions than in a normal job. This means that you are not entitled to unemployment benefit if you lose your job.
- If you only have a mini-job and no other income, your pension entitlement is very low, which can lead to a low pension later on.
- Minijobbers have to take care of their own health insurance if they earn less than 556 euros a month. Those who earn more or have a specific insurance policy are covered.
- Mini-jobbers have rights, for example the right to protection against dismissal, holiday and continued payment of wages in the event of illness.

Rights and obligations

Even though mini-jobbers have less protection than other employees, they do have some important rights:

- **Holiday entitlement:** mini-jobbers are also entitled to holiday, which is calculated according to the number of days worked.
- **Labour law rights:** Minijobbers are entitled to protection against dismissal, maternity pay and accident insurance. They can also request a reference.

Mini-job as a second job

If someone already has a main job, they can have a mini-job as a second job. In this case, they need the permission of their main employer. If someone has several mini-jobs, they must ensure that their total income from the mini-jobs does not exceed the limit of 556 euros. Otherwise, social security contributions must be paid.

Working hours and overtime**How long can I work?**

According to the Working Hours Act, you may not work more than 8 hours a day.

In exceptional cases, working hours may be extended to up to 10 hours if the average daily working time has not exceeded 8 hours within a 6-month period.

You are entitled to breaks:


- From 6 hours you must take at least a 30-minute break.
- From 9 hours you are entitled to a break of at least 45 minutes.

Overtime

You may only be asked to work overtime if this is stipulated in your contract.

Overtime must also be paid.

Instead of payment, you can also take time off in lieu. This must be regulated in the contract or you as the employee must agree to it.

 **Important:** Always document your working hours every day! This way you can always prove how much overtime you have worked.

Minimum wage**How high is the minimum wage?**

There is a minimum wage in Germany. This means that nobody is allowed to earn less than this amount per hour.

The minimum wage from 1 January 2025 is 12.82 euros per hour.

The minimum wage is reviewed regularly and may increase.

Important:

The boss may not demand that you work longer hours without being paid extra.

Who does not receive the minimum wage?

The minimum wage does not apply to

- Young people under the age of 18 without training
- Trainees
- Long-term unemployed people in the first 6 months after starting work

- Certain interns (e.g. during their studies or for career guidance, up to 3 months)
- Volunteers
- Self-employed persons

Why is there a minimum wage?

The minimum wage protects employees from low wages.

Labour exploitation and illegal employment

Labour exploitation

Labour exploitation occurs when someone is exploited for work without their consent or under unfair conditions.

Slavery and forced labour are prohibited in Germany. Human trafficking for labour exploitation or forced sex work is also illegal.

There are also other forms of labour exploitation that are punishable by law:

- Not paying money even though someone is working.
- Working longer hours without more pay or working more hours than contractually agreed.
- Not paying holiday or sick pay, even though this is required by law.

Illegal employment (undeclared work)

Undeclared work means that someone earns money but does not pay taxes or social security contributions (such as for health or pension insurance). This is illegal and will be penalised.

If you do undeclared work, you usually get the money in cash, not transferred to your bank account. There is no employment contract and no pay slip.

There is a lot of undeclared work, especially in the trades. Customs often check construction sites and ask for labour contracts and tax payments.

If you receive social benefits and do undeclared work, you can go to prison. Benefits can also be cancelled or reduced.

Payroll accounting

If you work, you will receive a **payslip**.

This shows how much money you earn and what deductions there are.

When do you receive your payslip?

- After your first month of work, you will receive your first payslip.
- After that, you will receive the statement every month - but not always.
- Some employers only send the statement if something changes (e.g. more money or new deductions).

What is on the payslip?

- Your name, address and date of birth
- Employer's name and address
- Employer's insurance number
- Your hire date (when you started working)
- Your tax class and tax identification number
- The payroll period (for which month the salary is)
- Gross salary (your salary before deductions)
- Supplements or bonuses (additional money, e.g. for overtime)
- Deductions (taxes, insurance, other deductions)
- Net salary (the money you receive)

Important:

The net salary is usually the amount you are paid.

But: If you have debts or have received an advance, more money may be deducted.

Taxes and social security contributions

If you work in Germany, you have to pay **taxes and social security contributions**. This applies to employees and the self-employed.

1. income tax

Income tax helps to pay for important things such as roads, schools and social benefits.

- Employees receive their salary after tax has been deducted (net salary).
- Self-employed people have to pay their own taxes.

2. tax identification number (tax ID)

Every person in Germany has a **tax ID** (11 numbers).

- This number remains the same for the rest of your life.
- You will often need this number, for example for your employer or the tax office.

Lost your number?

You can request a new tax ID from the [Federal Central Tax Office](#).

3. tax return

You can make a tax return once a year.

- You may get money back or have to pay extra.
- Some people have to make a tax return. Ask the tax office about this.
- Help is available from the income tax assistance organisation or the tax office.

4 Social security contributions (social insurance)

In addition to tax, there are social security contributions. The money is automatically deducted from your gross salary.

These contributions are important so that people receive help if they are ill, unemployed or old.

Social security contributions go to:

- Pension insurance (money for old age)
- Unemployment insurance (money if you are out of work)
- Health insurance (payment in case of illness)
- Care insurance (help if you need care)

Your employer pays part of the social security contributions.

5. national insurance number

- If you are working in Germany for the first time, you will receive a national insurance number by post.
- This number is important for pension insurance.

Lost your number?

Call Deutsche Rentenversicherung:  [0800 10004800](tel:080010004800) (free of charge).

Illness

Behaviour during illness

If you are ill and cannot work, there are certain things you need to bear in mind:

- **Inform your employer:**
Notify your employer as early as possible that you are ill. Tell them when and for how long you will be absent.
- **Sick note (medical certificate):**
If you are ill for more than three days, you must provide a doctor's certificate. This shows that you are really ill.
- **Incapacity for work:**
The illness must be so serious that you cannot work. This is called "**incapacity for work**" (AU).
- **Continued payment of wages in the event of illness:**
If you are ill, you will generally continue to receive your salary for up to six weeks. After that, a health insurance company may step in.
- **Back to work:**
If you are healthy, you must return to work. If you have been ill for a longer period of time, you can also have a return-to-work meeting with your employer.

Is dismissal due to illness legal?

Dismissal is not ruled out in the event of illness. However, employers must adhere to strict legal requirements.

Holidays

In Germany, all employees have the **right to holiday**.

- At least 4 weeks per year (that's 24 working days if you work 6 days per week).
- If you work fewer days, you have correspondingly less holiday. This means:
 - 5 days per week: 20 days holiday
 - 4 days per week: 16 days holiday
 - 3 days per week: 12 days holiday
- The holiday will continue to be paid - you will receive your normal salary.
- In most cases, the employment contract contains more holiday days.

Important:

- The holiday must be applied for and approved by the employer.
- Holiday not taken can often be carried over to the following year. Usually until 31 March.
- Sick on holiday? Get a doctor's note - then you can take the days later.

German law protects your right to rest and recuperation!

Special leave

Sometimes you need special days off in addition to your regular holiday. This is called **special leave**.

According to the German Civil Code (§ 616 BGB), employees have the right to be released from work even for important personal reasons. This means that they do not have to work and still receive a salary.

Examples of special leave:

- Death in the family
- Wedding
- Birth of a child
- Health examinations (e.g. compulsory health examinations)
- Participation as a lay judge at a court hearing

Important:

Special leave only applies to important events and is normally only for one to two days.

Accident at work

An **accident at work** occurs when you are injured at work or on the way to work. In this case, you must observe certain things:

- **Report the accident immediately:**
If you are injured, report the accident to your employer immediately. The quicker, the better.
- **Document the accident:**
Have the accident examined by a doctor and have a sick note (medical certificate) issued. The doctor will certify the severity of the injury.

- **Accident insurance:**

In Germany, you are protected by statutory accident insurance. It covers the costs of treatment and rehabilitation.

- **Continued payment of wages:**

If you have an accident at work, you will continue to receive your salary, even if you are off sick for a longer period of time. This applies for up to six weeks. After that, you can receive benefits from accident insurance.

- **Further entitlements:**

If you are unable to work for a longer period or if a permanent injury remains, you can receive additional benefits from accident insurance.

Accident at work: What to do?

If an accident at work results in you being unable to work for longer than three days, the accident must be reported to the company. The company submits an accident report to the relevant employers' liability insurance association or accident insurance fund.

A doctor writes a report and sends it to the accident insurance organisation.

See a doctor

If your injury lasts longer than a day or treatment lasts longer than a week, you must consult a **general practitioner**.

Accident**doctors** specialise in accident injuries and ensure that you receive the right treatment. In the case of minor injuries, the doctor may refer you to a GP.

Important information:

For eye, throat, nose or ear injuries, you can go directly to a **specialist**.

Occupational Health and Safety Act

The **Occupational Health and Safety Act** ensures that people can work safely. Employers must ensure that there are no hazards in the workplace. They must check whether the work can be harmful to health. If there are risks, they must introduce protective measures.

To protect employees, employers must, for example, ensure that machines are safe and that protective clothing is available. They must also regularly inform their employees about safe working practices.

Employees have the right to point out unsafe situations. If a job is too dangerous, they can refuse to do it until the danger has been eliminated.

The law helps to prevent accidents and protect people's health.

Works council and trade unions

Works council

A **works council** is a group of employees that is elected in a company. The works council stands up for the rights of employees and ensures that the laws and agreements in the company are complied with.

The works council helps with issues such as

- Working hours
- holidays
- Protection against dismissal
- Salary increases

The works council can make suggestions and discuss these issues with the employer. In some decisions, such as dismissals, the works council has a say.

Trade unions

A **trade union** is an organisation that represents employees in certain professions or industries. There are many different trade unions in Germany. They campaign for better working conditions, higher wages and legal protection.

If you are a member of a trade union, you will receive support in matters relating to work. They help with

- Negotiating salaries
- Contracts and working conditions
- Legal problems

Trade unions also organise **strikes** if employers do not meet their demands. By uniting many employees, they can have more influence on employers.

Collective labour agreement

A **collective labour agreement** is a special agreement between employers and employees. This agreement contains important rules for work, for example

- How much pay or salary you get
- How long you have to work
- How much holiday you have

Collective labour agreements are negotiated by trade unions and employers. In this way, the trade union campaigns for better working conditions.

Why is a collective agreement important?

A collective labour agreement ensures that employees are treated fairly. It prevents employers from paying too low wages or imposing poor working conditions.

Does a collective agreement apply to everyone?

Not all companies have a collective labour agreement. There are companies that do not have to adhere to such agreements. However, employees can ask whether their company has a collective agreement.

A collective agreement therefore helps to create good and fair conditions for employees.

Labour court

A **labour court** helps when there is a dispute between employees and employers. For example, if someone has been unfairly dismissed or not paid the right wage.

If you think you have been treated unfairly, you can file a complaint with the labour court. There, a judge decides who is right. There is often a hearing first, in which both sides are supposed to find a solution. If this does not work out, the court decides.

The hearing is usually free of charge. You can get help from a lawyer or a trade union.

The labour court ensures that employees' rights are protected.

Application and job interview

Application

If you want to start an apprenticeship or work in Germany, you must apply in writing. In most cases, you apply to a company because it has placed a job advert on the Internet or in the newspaper. This means that the company is looking for new employees. The job advert states what kind of work or training is involved and what expectations the company has of the employee. It also states where and how you should apply.

An application usually consists of three parts:

1. Cover letter

In your personal cover letter, you briefly introduce yourself and explain why you are suitable for the vacancy. For example, describe what experience you have already gained in your home country. Find out more about the company and describe why you would like to work there. Your cover letter should fit on one page. Sign your cover letter. There are many templates and aids on the Internet. It is important that you do not simply copy and paste. Your cover letter must suit you and the position.

2. Curriculum vitae

The CV lists all your experience and is structured like a large table. Write from when to when you worked at which company. Write where you completed your training or studies. Write where you went to school and what school-leaving qualification you obtained. You don't have to include a photo in your CV, but many companies like it if you do.

3. Certificates and supporting documents

It is important that you send copies of your certificates (not originals). Certificates are your school-leaving certificate, your degree and references from previous jobs. The certificates should be in German or English, otherwise they should be translated. You should also send proof of internships, further training relevant to the job or certificates from your German course.

The job advert will tell you how to apply. Please read it carefully.

💡 Here you will find further [information](#) for your application.

💡 You can also find helpful tips for your application at [Planet Beruf](#).

💡 [Europass](#) is a multilingual online portal (over 20 languages) that helps migrants to visualise their skills and knowledge. It offers a free online tool to create a language passport or a CV (see above). You can also find important tips for good job applications on Europass.

💡 At [Bewerbung.net](#), [StepStone](#) and [Lebenslauf2go](#) you can have a CV and cover letter created free of charge. In some cases, you can also import your data from Xing or LinkedIn. It is also possible to write your own texts in the template or import files.

💡 You can find information and templates for cover letters at [Bewerbung2go](#), [BewerbungsWissen](#), [Karrierebibel](#)

How do you send your application?

- **In writing**

Buy a nice application folder and put your cover letter, CV and certificates in it. Then send the application to the address given in the job advert.

- **E-mail**

Many applications are now sent by e-mail. Combine your cover letter, CV and references into one PDF file and send this as an attachment to the e-mail. In the e-mail, write a short message to the person who will receive your application.

- **Online**

Large companies have their own website where you have to apply. You have to register there with your e-mail address and can then send your application there.

Job interview

If the company is interested in you, you will usually be invited to an interview where you will introduce yourself in person. Please allow enough time and make sure you arrive on time for the interview. It is best to prepare for the interview in detail beforehand and gather important information about the company. Visit the website and read through the company's history, find out about the products or services. If you arrive on time for the appointment and ask questions during the interview, you will show the company your motivation and interest in the apprenticeship or job.

Language exercises

📍 On the [VHS learning portal "I want to learn German"](#) and the [Goethe-Institut](#) website "[Deutsch für dich](#)" you will find exercises on the subject of job applications and the world of work in general. This will help you learn about the world of work and improve your German language skills.

Recruitment test and assessment centre

Many companies carry out a **recruitment test** before hiring a new person. In this test, applicants have to answer questions. It is often about maths, German or logic. Sometimes there are also questions about the job. The test shows whether someone is suitable for the apprenticeship or job.


An **assessment centre** is a special type of test. Applicants have to complete various tasks here. For example, group work, role plays or small tests. The company looks at how well someone works with others and solves problems.


Those who prepare well have a better chance of passing the test and getting the job.

Help with the application

If you need help with your application, you have the following contact options:

Berufsinformationszentrum (BiZ)


 [Hünefeldstr. 10a, 42285 Wuppertal](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 222828460](tel:+490222828460)


 <https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/bildung/berufsinfor...>

If you have any questions about training and finding work, the careers advice centre staff will be happy to help you:


Jobcenter Remscheid

 [Bismarckstr. 8-10, 42853 Remscheid](#)


 jobcenter-remscheid@jobcenter-ge.de

 [+49 \(0\) 21919518222](tel:+49021919518222)

 <https://www.jobcenter-remscheid.de/>

 If you receive benefits from the Job Centre, you can enquire there about possible help with applications.

Agentur für Arbeit Remscheid

 [Bismarckstr. 8, 42853 Remscheid](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 2022828111](tel:+4902022828111)

 <https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/vor-ort/solingen-wu...>

Jugendberufsagentur Remscheid

📍 [Konrad-Adenauer-Straße 2-4, 42853 Remscheid](#)

✉ info@jba-remscheid.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 21914606345](tel:+49021914606345)

🌐 <https://www.jba-remscheid.de/>

Immigration of skilled labour

The basics of skilled labour immigration

There is a law in Germany. The law is intended to make it easier for skilled workers to come to Germany. The skilled workers either have vocational training or a university degree. The law is called § 18a+b AufenthG. This allows skilled workers to obtain a residence permit for Germany. With this residence permit, they can work in Germany in any qualified occupation.

💡 Would you like to obtain an [EU Blue Card](#)? Then your new profession must match your qualifications. This means that you can only work in a profession that you have learnt.

🔗 You can also find this and further information on the [Make it in Germany](#) page

🔗 You can also take a [quick test](#) of your options here!

For employers

Accelerated skilled labour procedure: If someone from another country wants to work in Germany, as an employer you first need authorisation from this person. This is called an "authorisation". With this authorisation, you can start a faster process at the foreigners authority. The Immigration Office is an organisation that looks after people who come to Germany from other countries.

Your company then makes an agreement with this authority. This agreement sets out exactly what you, the new worker and the authorities are allowed to do and must do. It also specifies how long everything may take and who does what and when.

💡 You can find more information on the procedure and costs [here](#).

The foreigners authority advises employers. It provides support to ensure that the foreign qualifications of the skilled worker are recognised. The Immigration Office obtains the approval of the Federal Employment Agency. It checks what is required for the visa to be issued. The recognition centres only have a certain amount of time before they have to make a decision. So does the Federal Employment Agency.

💡 Have all the **requirements** been met? Then the foreigners authority will issue a so-called preliminary approval. The employer can forward this to the skilled worker. The skilled worker then books an appointment with the diplomatic mission abroad. The visa is applied for at this appointment. At this appointment, the skilled worker must present the original of the prior authorisation. The skilled worker must also bring the other documents required for the visa application.

Have you submitted the complete **visa application** from the skilled worker? Then a decision will be made within three weeks.

💡 The **family of** the skilled worker can also be considered. The application must be submitted at the same time. The family must fulfil the requirements for family reunification.

You can find templates and samples [here](#) and a detailed explanation of the procedure [here](#).

For professionals

💡 **Definition of specialist:** Do you have a university degree? Or have you completed vocational training? Did your training last at least two years? Does it qualify you for a profession? Then you are a skilled worker. Do you want to be officially recognised as a skilled worker? Then you must apply for this. Your qualifications must be recognised by the competent authority in Germany.

Job search

Entering the labour market:

Entering the labour market is made easier: As a skilled worker, you must provide three things. You need an employment contract. You must have a concrete job offer. And you need a qualification that is recognised in Germany. It is no longer checked whether there is a German person for the job. The Federal Employment Agency will continue to check the working conditions.

Skilled workers with a university degree:

Skilled workers with a university degree can work in any qualified profession. This means that skilled workers must work in a profession that requires training/studies. For the EU Blue Card, you need a job that corresponds to your qualifications.

Skilled workers with vocational training:

Skilled workers with vocational training can work in any qualified profession. This means that skilled workers must work in an occupation that requires training/studies.

Rules for entry

Entry to seek employment:

Skilled workers with vocational training can enter Germany. You can enter the country to find a job here. You will receive a residence permit for up to six months. Their qualifications must be recognised in Germany. You must be able to support yourself during your stay. You must already speak German well enough to be able to work in your profession. German language skills at level B1 or better are normally required. Would you like to try out a job first? Then you can work up to 10 hours a week. This way you can find out whether you like the job. Your employer can get to know you. Skilled workers with a recognised academic qualification can also do trial work. You can find more information at [Make-It-In-Germany](#).

Stay for qualification measures:

You will be given more opportunities so that you can gain qualifications in Germany. Have you tried to have your qualifications recognised? The authorities have identified problems? Your qualifications do not match the German ones? Then you need sufficient knowledge of German. This is knowledge at level A2. Then you can apply for a visa. With this visa you can come to Germany for 18 months. During this time you can gain qualifications. The authorities can extend the visa once for 6 months. After that, you can apply for another visa. For example, for an apprenticeship. Or for studying. Or for work. You can find more information at [Make-It-In-Germany](#).

Settlement permit for skilled workers from abroad:


Foreign skilled workers can obtain a settlement permit in Germany after just four years. You can find more information [here](#). There are sometimes different conditions for skilled workers and EU Blue Card holders.

For training and studies

Entering the country **to look for an apprenticeship**: Would you like to do an apprenticeship? Then you can enter the country to look for a training place. You need German language skills at level B2. You also need a school-leaving certificate that entitles you to enter higher education. You must be no more than 25 years old. You must be able to pay for your own living costs in Germany.

Extended transfer options for international students in Germany: International students can obtain a new residence permit before they have completed their studies. For example: You want to learn a profession after your studies. You will then receive a residence permit for this. The new law for skilled workers makes this change easier: Are you studying? And you want to have a job? Then you can take a job. To do so, you must fulfil special conditions. The Federal Employment Agency sets these conditions. Once everything has been checked, you will receive a new residence permit.

Settlement **permit for graduates** of a vocational training programme in Germany: Under the new law, foreign graduates of a vocational training programme in Germany, just like university graduates, can obtain a settlement permit after just two years.

 **German language course** to prepare for training: Do you have the right visa? Then you can attend a German course. This German course will prepare you for your training.

EU Blue Card

The EU Blue Card is a residence permit for people with a university degree who do not come from the EU and wish to work in Germany. This requires a university degree and an employment contract with a certain minimum salary.

- For bottleneck professions and career starters: at least €43,759.80 per year (2025).
- For all other professions: at least €48,300 per year (2025).

Who can get the EU Blue Card?

Do you have a recognised university degree?

If you studied abroad, the degree must be recognised in Germany or be equivalent.

Tip: You can check whether your degree is recognised on the "[anabin](#)" website.

You don't have a university degree?

Then you need to have completed at least three years of training after leaving school. This must correspond to at least level 6 of the German or European education system - for example as a master craftsman/master craftswoman or educator.

Employment contract or binding job offer in Germany:

- The job must last at least six months.
- The work must match your degree.
- The salary must be at least €48,300 per year (2025).

For shortage occupations, a salary of € 43,759.80 (2025) is also sufficient if the Federal Employment Agency agrees. You can find a list of these professions [here](#).

Special case for career starters

If your degree is less than three years old, you can obtain the EU Blue Card with a salary of €43,759.80 (2025) - regardless of the profession. Here, too, you need the approval of the Federal Employment Agency.

Special case of IT specialists without training

Are you an IT specialist or IT manager without an official qualification? Then you can still get the EU Blue Card if:

- You have a concrete job offer in IT in Germany (at least 6 months).
- You earn at least € 43,759.80 per year (2025).
- you have had at least 3 years of high-level professional experience in IT in the last 7 years.

Prospects with the EU Blue Card

The EU Blue Card is valid for as long as your employment contract plus three months - up to a maximum of four years. It can be extended. After 27 months of working in Germany, you can apply for a permanent residence permit. If you speak German at level B1, this is possible after just 21 months. You can leave Germany with your family members for up to 12 months without your EU Blue Card becoming invalid. After one year with the EU Blue Card, you can also move to another EU country (except Ireland and Denmark) and apply for a new EU Blue Card there within one month.

Do you have an EU Blue Card and want to change jobs?

That is possible. You can work for a new employer with your valid Blue Card. Important: If you change jobs in the first year, you must inform the Immigration Office. The authority will then check whether you still fulfil all the conditions for the new job. If not, you may receive a different residence permit.

Independence

Would you like to work independently?

That means:

- You don't work for a company, but for yourself.
- You set up your own company.

Examples of self-employed work:

- Hairdresser with own salon
- Tradesman with his own company
- Cleaner with own service
- Translator
- Open a café or restaurant
- Web designer
- Beautician
- Gardening / landscaping
- DJ or musician for events
- Yoga teacher or personal trainer

Who can become self-employed in Germany?

The BAMF is still processing your application for asylum? The BAMF has rejected your application? Are you tolerated? Then self-employed work is **prohibited**.

You do not belong to this group? Then you can set up a business in Germany.

What do you need for self-employment?

- A good idea
- A plan for how you will earn money
- Knowledge of what is permitted and what is not
- Registration with the authorities (e.g. the trade office)

Important steps:

- **Get advice**
There are many organisations that can help. For example, the IHK or start-up centres.
- **Register your business**
You tell the office: I want to be self-employed. This is compulsory.
- **Plan your finances**
How much money do you need? What does everything cost?
- **Clarify health insurance**
The self-employed must also be insured.

Advantages of self-employment:

- You are your own boss.
- You can often decide for yourself how and when you work.
- You have your own customers.

Disadvantages:

- You have to take care of everything yourself.
- There is no fixed salary.

- If you are ill, you don't earn any money.
- There are risks - the business may not do well.

Tip:

- Seek advice before you start.
- There are many offers - often free of charge.
- This way you can avoid mistakes and be successful.

Links with further information

- [Online guide "GründerZeiten"](#) (2 languages - German and Arabic)
- [Portal for founders](#) (5 languages - German, French, Italian, Russian and Turkish)
- [Homepage of the IQ centre](#) (14 languages - German, English, French, Polish, Spanish, Pashto, Bosnian, Russian, Chinese, Ukrainian, Turkish, Tigrinya, Vietnamese, Arabic)

Set up a company in Remscheid:

- Do you want to register a business?
[Register a business](#)
- Are you looking for a commercial property?
[Property network of the city of Remscheid](#)
- Do you need support or advice?
[Setting up a business](#)

Recognition of foreign educational qualifications

If you have a school-leaving qualification, vocational qualification or degree from abroad, you can have it recognised in Germany. This means that your qualification will be checked to see if it is equivalent to a German qualification. If so, you will receive a certificate.

Where can I have my qualification recognised?

That depends on what type of qualification you have:

School-leaving qualifications

Information on the recognition of school-leaving qualifications can be found here: [Recognition of foreign school-leaving qualifications](#)

Professional qualifications

To apply for recognition of professional qualifications in Germany, you can take the following steps:

1. **Obtain information:** On the [recognition portal](#) you will find information in **11 languages on how and where you can have your foreign profession recognised.**
2. **Regulated professions:** Check whether your profession is regulated in EU countries and which authorities are responsible.

3. **Submit an application:** If you have acquired a professional qualification abroad, you can have it recognised in Germany. This can be done by the competent authority, which varies depending on the profession.
4. **Duration of the procedure:** The processing time for the recognition of professional qualifications varies, usually taking between 1 and 3 months.

For detailed information, please visit the relevant websites:

- [Recognition in Germany](#) (in 11 languages)
- [handbook germany](#) (in 9 languages)
- [IQ network](#)
- [BAMF](#) (Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, in 5 languages)
- [Central Service Centre for Professional Recognition \(ZSBA\)](#) of the Federal Employment Agency
- [Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs \(KMK\)](#)
- [BQ-Portal](#)
- [make-it-in-germany](#)

You can obtain initial advice on the recognition procedure and support with the application process from

Caritasverband Remscheid e.V.

📍 [Blumenstr. 30, 42853 Remscheid](#)

Ewelina Kamrowski | Migrationsberatung (MBE)

✉️ e.kamrowski@caritasverbandremscheid.de

☎️ [+49 \(0\) 219169447021](tel:+49(0)219169447021)

Degrees (university degrees)

If you have studied at a university or college:

- The ZAB ([Central Office for Foreign Education](#)) is responsible for recognition
- You can check online beforehand whether your degree is recognised: [anabin database](#)
- You submit the application directly to the ZAB: [ZAB website](#).
- If you want to study or work in science in Germany, ask the university directly.

Explanatory video: [How can I compare my university degree via anabin?](#) (subtitles in 5 languages)

Official certification of certificates

Translation

Some important documents are not in German.
For example: a school certificate or a vocational qualification.
These documents must be translated into German in order to be recognised.

Important:

The translation must be done by a translation agency.
This means: a company that translates professionally.

You can find a list of translators and interpreters in Germany here:

- www.justiz-dolmetscher.de

Notarisation

You have a document. A certificate, for example. The authorities want to know whether the document is genuine. To do this, you need to have it officially notarised. This is important for the recognition of a professional qualification or for enrolment at a university.
These offices can do this:

- Remscheid city council ([notarisation of documents at the city of Remscheid](#))
- Notary or notary public

What do you need for notarisation?

If you would like to have a document notarised, please bring along

- the original document
- Copies or transcripts of the document
- Your ID (identity card or passport)

What does a notarisation cost?

Notarisation of documents costs between 20 and 100 euros.

Important information

- Birth certificates, marriage certificates, death certificates:
may only be notarised by the registry office that issued them.
- Foreign identity cards or passports:
Cannot be notarised by the Citizens' Service of the City of Remscheid.
- Contents that are illegal, incorrect or illegible may not be notarised.
- Foreign language documents:
must first be translated into German by a translation agency. Only the German translation will be notarised - not the original in the foreign language.

Training and working with a disability

It is important for the self-determination of people with disabilities that they are able to participate in society.

This also includes being able to participate in working life. This enables people with a disability to find suitable work that suits their abilities and needs. Such work helps to promote and

develop the independence of the person concerned. It helps them to organise their own lives better and enables them to receive recognition from others. In addition, work plays an important role in strengthening integration into society and promoting a sense of belonging.

What is possible?

- Training in a company (firm)
- Training in a workshop for people with disabilities
- Supported training with the help of specialists
- A job on the general labour market or in a workshop

Who can help?

Various agencies can provide support for inclusion in the labour market. They help to find the right job and ensure that everything goes well so that people with disabilities get a chance on the labour market.

- Employment agency
- Specialist integration service (IFD)
- Counselling centres for people with disabilities
- Rehabilitation counsellors

They help, for example

- in the search for a training place or a job
- with career choices
- contacting employers
- with applications and paperwork


What support is available?

- Assistance at the workplace, for example a special chair or a computer with a language programme
- Accompanying persons or job coaches to help in the workplace
- Subsidies for companies that employ people with disabilities
- Transport services or help with travelling to work

Everyone has the right to participate in working life. There are many ways and possibilities - even with a disability.

Integrationsfachdienst (IFD)

 [Eichenstraße 105-109, 42659 Solingen](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 212248210](tel:+49201212248210)

 <https://ifd-solingen.jimdoweb.com/>

The specialised integration service in Solingen and Remscheid supports people with (severe) disabilities and those at risk of disability.

Agentur für Arbeit Remscheid | Menschen mit Behinderungen

📍 [Bismarckstr. 8, 42853 Remscheid](#)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2022828111](#)

🌐 <https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/menschen-mit-behind...>

The employment agency looks after young people with various degrees of disability. It offers career guidance and counselling and can arrange apprenticeships and jobs.

Lebenshilfe Remscheid e.V.

📍 [Thüringsberg 7 u. 9, 42897 Remscheid](#)

@ info@lebenshilfe-remscheid.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 21919930](#)

🌐 <https://lebenshilfe-remscheid.de/>

Lebenshilfe Remscheid e. V. has been helping people with disabilities for over 60 years. The organisation is non-profit and offers help and support for people of all ages: for example, work in workshops and in many Remscheid companies.

LeBiZ - Berufsbildung bei der Lebenshilfe Remscheid e.V.

📍 [Am Eichholz 10, 42897 Remscheid](#)

🌐 <https://lebiz.de/>

The educational centre of Lebenshilfe Remscheid e. V. offers people with cognitive and/or physical-motor, mental and/or psychological as well as severe multiple disabilities the opportunity to pursue a meaningful activity and have a fulfilling task.

LVR-Beratung vor Ort in der Stadt Remscheid | Beratungsstelle im Sozialpsychiatrischen Zentrum

📍 [Konrad-Adenauer-Straße 6, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@ Beratung.StadtRemscheid@lvr.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2218096440](#)

Stadt Remscheid | Fachstelle für behinderte Menschen im Arbeitsleben

📍 [Alleestraße 66, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@ detlef.strecker@remscheid.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191163721](#)

🌐 <https://remscheid.de/vv/produkte/2.50/14638010000...>

School and studies

School

School enrolment

How does my child get to school?

Have you recently moved to Remscheid?

Do you have one or more children between the ages of 6 and 18?

Then the children are required to attend school and must attend a school.

Your child has not yet attended a German school and does not speak German?

Then make an appointment with the Municipal Integration Centre for an initial consultation:

Online

using our [form](#).

by email

to the following email address: @ schuleintegration@remscheid.de


- If you do not speak German, please write the email in your native language.
- Please write whether you need an interpreter for the counselling appointment. Please indicate which language you speak. Perhaps you know someone who speaks German who can accompany you.
- Please also state in the email:
 - Name and date of birth of the child
 - Names of the parents/guardians
 - Address and telephone number
- The person responsible at the Municipal Integration Centre will contact you and arrange an appointment with you at the Municipal Integration Centre.

by telephone

Call us:


for **primary school** (6-9 years):

Alexandra Böhlke

 [+49 \(0\) 2191162960](tel:+49(0)2191162960)

for **secondary school** (10-15 years):

Kirsten Eger

 [+49 \(0\) 2191162989](tel:+49(0)2191162989)

for **upper secondary level** (16-18 years):

Christoph Sykulski

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191163267](tel:+49(0)2191163267)

Please come to the counselling appointment together with your child or children

Kommunales Integrationszentrum

📍 [Blumenstr. 24, 42853 Remscheid](#)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 21911600](tel:+49(0)21911600)



and bring the following with you:

- **Certificate of registration**
You must register your child at the residents' registration office. In Remscheid, the residents' registration office is called the Bürgerbüro.
- **Personal documents**
- **School reports** (if available)

After the consultation at the Municipal Integration Centre, the education authority will place your child at a school. The school will let you know when you can enrol your child at the school.

Your child will also be registered by the Municipal Integration Centre with the public health department for the school entrance examination. The health authority will send you an appointment.

If you have moved to Remscheid and your child has already been attending a German school for some time, you can organise a school place yourself. You can find a list of Remscheid schools here:

- [Overview of primary schools and special schools](#) in Remscheid
- [Overview of secondary schools](#) (lower secondary level) in Remscheid

- [Overview of upper secondary schools](#) in Remscheid

Do you still need help or counselling? Then make an appointment for [educational counselling](#).

General information about the school

Compulsory schooling

All children aged 6 and over living in Germany not only have the right to attend school, but are also obliged to do so. School attendance at state and municipal schools is free of charge. Young people who have already attended school for 10 years and are not yet 18 years old are obliged to attend vocational school until the age of 18.

The parents or legal guardians of the children are obliged to ensure that the children attend school.

Compulsory school attendance includes

- regular attendance at lessons
- regular attendance at compulsory school events
- compliance with the school rules

Lesson times, timetable

There are lessons from Monday to Friday. There is a timetable. It lists all subjects for the school year. It also states the times at which lessons begin and end.

Travelling to school, reimbursement of travel costs

Pupils who have a long journey to school must travel by bus or train. The costs can be covered. There is a form for this in the school office.

Absence

If your child is unable to attend school due to illness, you must inform the school. Write an excuse and give it to your child when he/she returns to school. If your child is ill for a longer period of time, you will need a doctor's note.

If children have frequent unexcused absences, you will have to pay fines. In the worst case, the police may also come. The youth welfare office can also be called in.

Homework

Pupils have to do homework after school. This is important practice for at home. Please make sure that your child always does their homework properly and reliably. Please also make sure that your child is not disturbed and has a quiet place to study.

School holidays and public holidays

During school holidays and public holidays, the school is closed and there are no lessons. Every federal state in Germany has school holidays at different times.

In North Rhine-Westphalia there are:

- Easter holidays (2 weeks)
- Whitsun holidays (1 day)
- Summer holidays (6 weeks)
- Autumn holidays (2 weeks)
- Christmas holidays (2 weeks)

You can see exactly when the schools in Remscheid are closed in the following overview:

-  [Holiday calendar](#)
-  [Public holidays](#)

Parents' consultation days

There are regular parent-teacher conferences for parents. Please take part in these, where you can talk to the teachers and obtain important information. The schools in Remscheid also appoint a language mediator. This will enable you to talk to the teachers about your child's development.

Parents' evenings

Parents' evenings usually take place in the evening. This is a school event at which teachers talk to the parents of pupils about school matters. For example, it is about the organisation of a summer party or a class excursion. In other words, things are discussed that affect the whole class.

Measles protection

The Measles Protection Act has been in force in Germany since 1 March 2020. This law stipulates compulsory vaccination against measles. This means that your child must be vaccinated against measles in order to attend kindergarten, daycare or school. Currently (as of 2023), only the measles vaccination is mandatory. Your child does not have to be vaccinated against other diseases. Vaccinations can protect your child from contracting certain diseases or becoming seriously ill from them.

School rules

In a school, it is important that everyone treats each other with respect and tolerance.

These are the important rules:

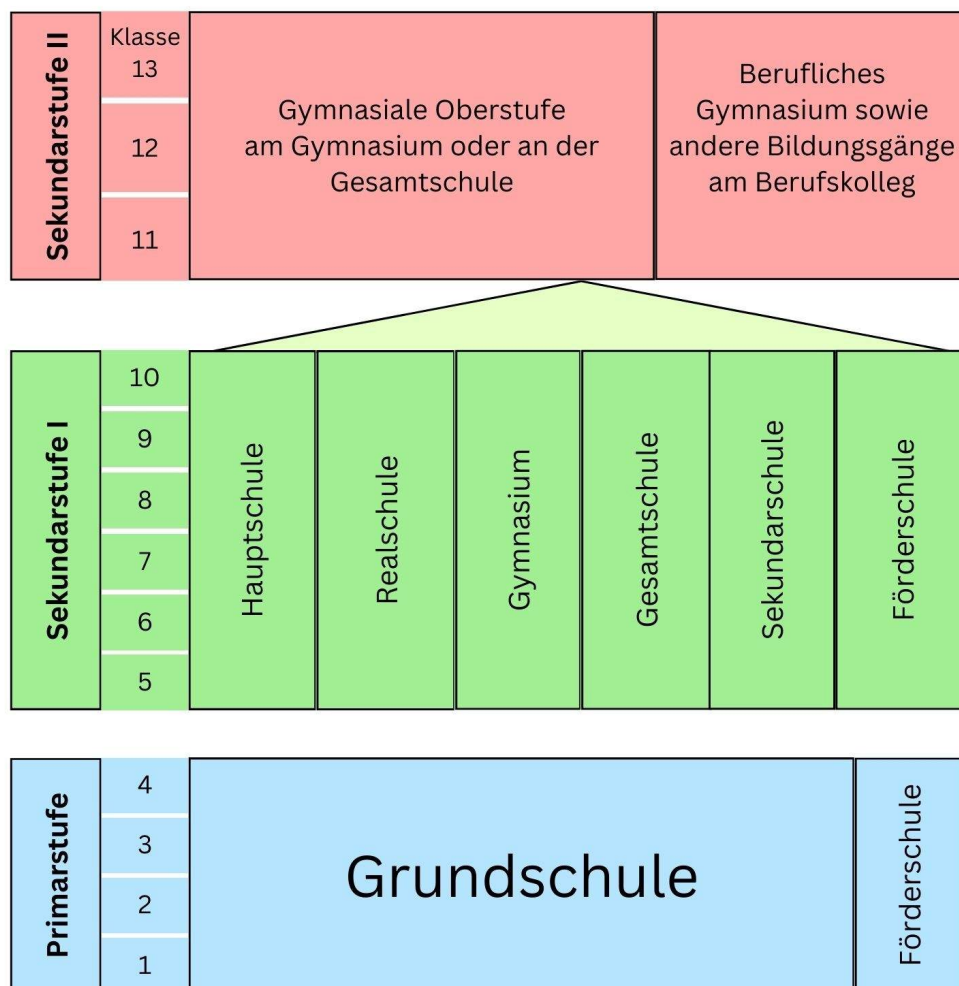
- You come to class on time
- You always have everything you need for class with you
- You follow the instructions of teachers and other school staff.
- You do not harass or endanger anyone.
- You do not disrupt lessons.
- You must take part in class tests. They are compulsory for you.
- You only eat during breaks, never in class.
- You treat the furniture and things in the classroom with care and do not break anything.
- You leave the toilet clean.
- You dispose of rubbish in a rubbish bin.
- You stay on the school grounds during the break.
- You may not smoke on the school grounds.
- You may not take alcohol or drugs onto the school grounds.
- You may not have any weapons on the school grounds.
- Leave valuable items at home.

The school system in North Rhine-Westphalia

School system in North Rhine-Westphalia

There are many different schools in Germany. The school system in Germany is very complex and each federal state has its own rules.

Initially, children go to primary school from Year 1 to Year 4 (primary level). They then attend grades 5 to 10 at a secondary school (secondary level I). If they get good grades, they can go on to the upper secondary level where, after 12 years of schooling, they can take the Fachabitur or the Abitur after 13 years. These qualifications are a prerequisite for university studies.



Primary school

In North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), children between the ages of 6 and 10 attend primary school. Primary school usually lasts four years - from Year 1 to Year 4.

In primary school, children learn important basics. They learn reading, writing and maths. There are also subjects such as science, music, art and sport. The teachers help the children to learn together and get on well with each other.

You can find an overview of all primary schools in Remscheid [here](#).

Primary school lessons normally last until 1 pm. However, all primary schools in Remscheid are all-day primary schools. In the so-called open all-day school (OGS), children are looked after between 8 am and 4 pm. The OGS is a childcare programme. This is important when parents are at work. The OGS provides lunch, help with homework and games. However, places in the OGS are limited. You must register your child for this programme. Depending on your income, you will have to pay a monthly fee for the OGS.

At the end of the fourth grade, parents decide together with the teachers which secondary school the child should attend. They can choose between Hauptschule, Realschule, Sekundarschule, Gesamtschule or Gymnasium. Before this, the teachers offer discussions to inform you about your child's individual learning development. In most cases, they will also make a recommendation as to which type of school to choose. The primary school teachers will advise you and help you find a suitable school.

Secondary school

In North Rhine-Westphalia there are the following types of secondary school:

Hauptschule

The Hauptschule is a secondary school in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW). After the 4th year of primary school, children can attend a Hauptschule. Many Hauptschulen are all-day schools and have lessons until the afternoon.

The Hauptschule usually lasts from Year 5 to Year 9 or 10. Pupils learn many important things at school: German, maths, English, history, biology and other subjects. There are also practical subjects such as technology, home economics and labour studies. There are lessons in the classroom and courses according to performance and interest. All lower secondary level qualifications can be achieved at the Hauptschule.

The Hauptschule is often about preparing pupils well for working life. They do work placements in companies and learn a lot about professions. At the end, they can graduate from secondary general school. They can then start an apprenticeship or - if they have good grades - continue at school.

The Hauptschule helps pupils to find a good place in the world of work.

Realschule

The Realschule is a secondary school in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW). Children can attend Realschule after the 4th year of primary school.

Realschule lasts from the 5th to the 10th grade. There, pupils learn many subjects such as German, maths, English, biology, history, geography, physics and chemistry. There are also practical subjects such as technology, art, music and home economics.

The Realschule attaches great importance to good education and preparation for working life. Pupils often do a work placement in a company. This allows them to familiarise themselves with professions.

At the end of year 10, pupils complete the intermediate school leaving certificate (also known as the Realschulabschluss). With this qualification, you can do an apprenticeship or continue to school - for example at a vocational college or a grammar school.

The Realschule offers many opportunities for the future.

Grammar school

The Gymnasium is a secondary school in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW). Children can attend a grammar school after the 4th year of primary school.

The Gymnasium usually lasts from the 5th to the 12th or 13th grade. It consists of two levels:

1. Secondary level I: Years 5 to 10
2. Secondary level II: Years 11 to 13 (three years for the Abitur)

Pupils learn many different subjects: German, maths, English, biology, physics, chemistry, history, geography, art, music, sport and often Latin or a second foreign language such as French or Spanish. At secondary level I, there are lessons in the classroom and compulsory elective courses. In class, pupils learn to solve problems and think critically.

At grammar school, the aim is to learn a lot of knowledge and prepare well for studying at university or a university of applied sciences. At the end, the pupils take the Abitur. With the Abitur, you can study at a university or start an apprenticeship.

The Gymnasium is a school for pupils who like to learn and who might want to study later.

Comprehensive school

The comprehensive school is a secondary school in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW). Children can attend a comprehensive school after the 4th year of primary school. The comprehensive schools in Remscheid are all-day schools with lessons until the afternoon.

At comprehensive schools, all children learn together - regardless of how well they do at school. There is no separation into Hauptschule, Realschule or Gymnasium - all school types are united in one school. The comprehensive school lasts from Year 5 to Year 10 - and often until Year 12 or 13 if you want to do the Abitur.

The comprehensive school has two levels:

Secondary level I: Years 5 to 10

Secondary level II: Years 11 to 13 (three years for the Abitur)

There are many subjects at the comprehensive school: German, maths, English, biology, history, physics, chemistry, art, music, sport and others. From Year 7 onwards, pupils can often choose which courses they would like to take - depending on what suits them best.

At the comprehensive school, all school-leaving qualifications that are also available at the Hauptschule, Realschule and Gymnasium can be obtained. This gives every child the chance to learn and develop at their own pace. The school helps pupils to decide on a qualification at their own pace.

Secondary school

The Sekundarschule is a secondary school in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW). Children can attend a secondary school after the 4th year of primary school. The secondary school in Remscheid is an all-day school with lessons until the afternoon.

The secondary school is a school for all children. In the secondary school, all children learn together as in the comprehensive school - regardless of how well they do at school. There is joint learning up to Year 8 or 9. After that, pupils can choose different courses - depending on their strengths. Secondary school gives children time to discover what they are good at and what they would like to do later.

At secondary school, children learn many subjects: German, maths, English, history, biology, geography, physics, chemistry, sport, art and music. The school is a good preparation for working life, but also for secondary schools such as vocational colleges or grammar schools.

At the secondary school, you can obtain all school qualifications that are also available at the Hauptschule and Realschule. With a good qualification, you can also do the Abitur later on - for example at a vocational college or a grammar school.

You can find an overview of all secondary schools in Remscheid [here](#).

Special school

Some children require special support due to a learning or developmental disorder or disability. These pupils are entitled to so-called "special educational support". This can take place at a mainstream school (inclusion) or at a special school. There are seven different special educational needs:

- Learning
- language
- Emotional and social development
- Vision
- Hearing and communication
- Mental development
- Physical and motor development

You can find an overview of the special schools in Remscheid [here](#).

The [LVR-Karl-Tietenberg-Schule](#) in Düsseldorf offers a programme for children with visual impairments and blind children.

Further information about the school system

A summarised explanation of the school system after primary school in German, English, Arabic, Bulgarian, Persian, Polish, Romanian, Serbian and Turkish is available at the following link: [Short film on the school system](#).

An overview of the school system in North Rhine-Westphalia can also be found in this flyer from the Ministry of Schools and Further Education. Under this link you will find this flyer in different languages.

 ["School system NRW - simply and quickly explained"](#)

The school system in NRW - school types at upper secondary level

School after year 10 (upper secondary level)

After the 10th grade, young people can continue to go to school.

Which schools are there?

- Upper secondary school (at a grammar school or comprehensive school)
- Vocational college
- Further education college

The upper secondary level builds on the lower secondary level and expands knowledge. There are two tracks:

- General education → upper secondary school
- Vocational → Vocational college

Upper secondary school

Pupils continue their studies here and prepare for the Abitur.

You can attend the gymnasiale Oberstufe at a grammar school, comprehensive school or vocational college. At the vocational college, it is called the Berufliches Gymnasium. At the end, you take the Abitur examination.

With the Abitur, you can study at a university or university of applied sciences.

Vocational college

There are many different educational programmes here, for example

- International support classes
- Training preparation
- Vocational school
- Vocational school
- Vocational grammar school

All school-leaving qualifications can be obtained at a vocational college. You can also learn a profession here.

Each school offers different options. Information can be found on the school websites or in a counselling session.

Further education college

- The Weiterbildungskolleg is for adults who are already working or have work experience.
- Here you can [catch up on school-leaving qualifications](#).

- There are, for example, evening schools or Abitur-Online, where you don't have to be at school as much.

💡 Interesting for refugees aged 18 and over: The [Bergische Weiterbildungskolleg](#) in Wuppertal offers an international class. There you have the opportunity to learn the German language and obtain a German school-leaving qualification.

Notation system

In Germany, pupils receive grades. These grades show the current status of the learning process and can be relevant for further promotion. A grade is made up of the written work and other achievements in class.

There are the following grades:

very good (1)

The grade "very good" should be awarded if the performance fulfils the requirements to a particularly high degree.

good (2)

The grade "good" should be awarded if the performance fully meets the requirements.

satisfactory (3)

The grade "satisfactory" should be awarded if the performance generally fulfils the requirements.

sufficient (4)

The grade "sufficient" should be awarded if the performance shows deficiencies but still fulfils the requirements overall.

unsatisfactory (5)

The grade "unsatisfactory" should be awarded if the performance does not meet the requirements, but indicates that the necessary basic knowledge is present and the deficiencies can be remedied in the foreseeable future.

unsatisfactory (6)

The grade "unsatisfactory" should be awarded if the performance does not meet the requirements and even the basic knowledge is so incomplete that the deficiencies cannot be remedied in the foreseeable future.

💡 Children and young people from abroad do not initially receive school reports with grades. They receive learning progress reports. A learning progress report shows how well your child has learnt German and what knowledge and skills they have developed in the other subjects.

School-leaving qualifications

School-leaving qualifications after year 9 and 10 (lower secondary level)

- **First school-leaving certificate (formerly Hauptschulabschluss after year 9)**
Pupils receive this qualification if they are transferred to year 10 after year 9.
There is no centralised examination.

After year 10, there are two school-leaving certificates at different levels:

1. extended first school-leaving certificate

This qualification (formerly the Hauptschulabschluss after year 10) is obtained with an examination.

2. intermediate school leaving certificate (Fachoberschulreife)

This qualification is awarded at the end of year 10 and requires passing an examination.

Intermediate school leaving certificate with qualification

Students who achieve at least "satisfactory" in all subjects in year 10 are allowed to enter the upper secondary school.

School-leaving qualifications after year 12 and 13 (upper secondary level)

The **general higher education entrance qualification (Abitur)** can be obtained in the upper secondary level at a grammar school or comprehensive school.

The Abitur is obtained through the Abitur examination in four subjects. There are three written examinations and one oral examination.

The Abitur can also be obtained at a vocational grammar school at a vocational college. However, at least one subject is specified for the examination.

The **Fachhochschulreife (Fachabitur)** can be achieved after year 12 or after a two-year programme at a vocational college. The Fachabitur consists of an academic and a practical part. Students who only achieve the school-based part must complete a one-year work placement.

Heritage language teaching - HSU

What is HSU?

Lessons in the home language (HSU) are an additional offer at schools for pupils who grow up speaking German and at least one other language. The aim is to promote the multilingualism of the children.

This programme is offered

- in addition to school lessons,
- usually in the afternoon,
- at least 3 hours a week,
- from class 1 - 10

offered.

In HSU, children and young people learn to speak and write their native language better. They expand their language skills and learn new things. The lessons are taught by qualified teachers.

Report card

Pupils receive a certificate or a certificate of attendance.

Language examination

Pupils who attend regularly take a language test in their native language at the end of the school year.

💡 Important: A good grade (1 or 2) in the language test can compensate for a grade (5) in a foreign language and thus enable the student to graduate (after grade 9 / 10)!

Registration

Registration is voluntary.

You will receive the HSU registration form

- when registering at the school
- at the school office
- in the Padlet

Please return the completed form to the school office. Registrations received after the registration deadline will initially be placed on the waiting list and considered in the next school year. If places are available in the near future, enrolments on the waiting list can also move up in the current school year.

The HSU teacher will inform you when and where the HSU will take place for your child.

Enrolment commits to regular attendance for at least one school year.

Cancellation is only possible at the end of the school year (by 10 June) for the following school year.

HSU is currently available in Remscheid in the following languages:

- Albanian
- Arabic
- Italian
- Kurmanci (Kurdish)
- Persian/Farsi/Dari
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Serbian
- Spanish
- Turkish
- Ukrainian

All information about the HSU can be found in the Padlet under: [HSU in the city of Remscheid](#)

Further information is available from:

Schulamt Remscheid

📍 [Schützenstraße 57, 42853 Remscheid](#)

Frau Langer | HSU

✉️ hsu@remscheid.de

☎️ [+49 \(0\) 2191163243](tel:+49(0)2191163243)

Tutoring

Tutoring or learning assistance is additional support for a school subject outside the classroom. This usually has to be paid for by the student.

Tutoring and learning assistance are useful, for example, if the pupil has poor grades and may not make it to the next grade. Or if the school-leaving certificate is at risk. Or if someone does not know a lot of the content in class. Talk to the teachers at school and ask whether tutoring or learning assistance would be useful. Perhaps the school itself has an offer.

It is possible to get money for tutoring. You can apply for support via the [education and participation package \(BuT\)](#).

Financial support

Education and participation package (BuT)

Children and young people from low-income families are supported and subsidised with the benefits of the "Education and Participation Package". If you receive social benefits, you can apply for financial help for your child through the "Education and Participation Package" (BuT). This applies to children up to their 18th birthday.

For whom can I apply for BuT?

- For children up to their 18th birthday.
- for young adults up to their 25th birthday if they are attending school but are not earning money as part of an apprenticeship.

What can be subsidised by BuT?

- **Excursions and school trips**

If the school or kindergarten is planning an excursion or school trip, your child can go along. The costs will be paid.

- **School supplies**

Twice a year there is money for school supplies. This is on 1 August and 1 February. This money can be used to buy exercise books, pens or a school bag, for example.

- **Travelling to school**

Some children have to travel to school by bus or train. There is money for this if the school is not within walking distance. An application must first be submitted to the school.

- **Private tuition**

Sometimes children need help with their studies. If your child is otherwise unable to achieve the class target and the school cannot help, the costs for tutoring are covered.

- **Lunch at school or kindergarten**

If lunch is provided at school or kindergarten, your child can eat with you. The meal is paid for.

- **Leisure time and hobbies**

Children and young people under the age of 18 receive 15 euros per month as a voucher. This money can be used for sports clubs, music lessons or other leisure activities.

Who can apply for BuT?

Children and young people from families who receive the following benefits are eligible:

- Citizen's allowance (SGB II),
- social assistance and basic income support (SGB XII),
- Housing benefit or supplementary child allowance
- Asylum seeker benefits

In addition:

- Families who finance their living expenses themselves but are unable to pay the costs incurred for the requirements of the education and participation package.

How do I apply for BuT?

Different authorities are responsible depending on which benefits you receive. Please enclose the current grant notice with your application for benefits from the BuT as proof of receipt of the social benefit.

What do I need to apply?

- If you receive social benefits: Proof of receipt of the social benefit (current grant notification)
- If you are working: detailed proof of your personal and financial circumstances
- the completed and signed [BuT application](#) and the corresponding attachment.

Where can I apply for BuT?

1. recipients of citizen's allowance can submit their applications to the Remscheid Job Centre.

Jobcenter Remscheid

📍 [Bismarckstr. 8-10, 42853 Remscheid](#)

✉️ [@jobcenter-remscheid@jobcenter-ge.de](mailto:jobcenter-remscheid@jobcenter-ge.de)

☎️ [+49 \(0\) 21919518222](tel:+49(0)21919518222)

🌐 <https://www.jobcenter-remscheid.de/>

2. recipients of housing benefit and supplementary child allowance submit their applications to the housing benefit office of the City of Remscheid.

Wohngeldstelle der Stadt Remscheid

📍 [Haddenbacher Str. 38, 42857 Remscheid](#)

@bildungundteilhabe@remscheid.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191163753](tel:+4902191163753)

💡 Important: You must always submit the application before you pay anything yourself. If you have already paid something, you will not get the money back.

Student BAföG

Everyone in Germany should have the same opportunity to complete vocational training or a secondary school qualification. Some parents are unable to support their children because they don't have that much money. This is why there is financial support in Germany. This is called BAföG (Federal Training Assistance Act). Student BAföG is provided by the state as a grant. It therefore does not have to be paid back.

Pupils from abroad can receive BAföG as support if they are

- are doing vocational training or
- want to complete a secondary school qualification.

Who can receive BAföG depends on various conditions, for example

- which school you attend
- whether you have already completed an apprenticeship
- your legal immigration status

You can find more information here: [bafög.de](https://www.bafög.de)

Would you like to apply for student BAföG in Remscheid?

Amt für Ausbildungsförderung (BAföG)

📍 [Schützenstraße 57, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@bafog@remscheid.de

🌐 <https://www.remscheid.de/menschen-soziales/bildun...>

START scholarship

START stands for equal opportunities. START supports young people with a migration background in their education and commitment biography and helps them to shape their future. START stands for safe space and community. START means further development, networking and education. For START, academic performance, the type of school attended or the qualification sought are not decisive. What counts are personality, values and attitude.

What does START offer?

- **Safer space & community to grow!**

On the digital START Campus, young people can become part of a unique community and network with young people from all over Germany. The campus offers young people free digital education programmes such as workshops, live talks, project groups and much more on the topics of personal development, commitment, strengthening democracy, career guidance and media skills.

START Scholarship

A three-year development programme on site

- Courses and workshops on personal development, career orientation, commitment and much more
- Support from the START team in your own federal state
- A total of 3,500 euros in financial support

Who can apply for the scholarship?

All pupils who

- are at least 14 years old by 30 September of a given year.
- are still at school for at least 3 years at the beginning of the school year.
- have immigrated to Germany or are the child of an
- immigrated to Germany or are the child of an immigrant parent.

More information about the START scholarship and application can be found here: [Your way to START](#)

Study

Study at a university


Are you interested in economics, computer science, law, psychology, social work, mechanical engineering or medicine? Do you also find completely different subjects interesting? There are many degree programmes in Germany. There is something for everyone. There are also different types of universities:

- Universities (academically orientated)
- Universities of applied sciences (practice-orientated)
- Dual universities (very practice-orientated)
- Universities for art, film or music

There are state and private universities. The quality of teaching at private universities is not always better. However, you often have to pay a lot of money. There are no tuition fees at state universities in Lower Saxony.

Helpful websites:

 [Hochschulkompass](#) (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)


 [Make it in Germany: Studying in Germany](#)


 [Handbook Germany](#)

Requirements for studying in Germany

Would you like to study in Germany? Then you need an authorisation. This is officially called a university entrance qualification. This can be an Abitur. It can also be an entrance qualification for universities of applied sciences. Have you taken the Abitur in your home country? Then you may be able to study in Germany. You can check for yourself on the [DAAD](#) website whether you fulfil the requirements. You can find more information on the [Anabin](#) website. There you can also check whether your school-leaving certificate from your home country is sufficient for studying in Germany. If you fulfil the requirements, you can apply directly to a university with your certificate.

You need a good knowledge of German to study. You must also prove this. You need at least [language level C1](#). You can prove this with a [certificate](#). Some universities also offer preparatory semesters. You will also learn German there.

 Do you already know where you would like to study? Then enquire there directly. Most universities offer counselling services. There are deadlines for applying to a university. These are called application deadlines. Please observe these deadlines. Universities do not accept late applications.

 If you have completed an apprenticeship in Germany and have worked in your profession for three years, you can also study without a higher school leaving certificate under certain conditions. This means studying without an Abitur.

Financing

You will need money while you are studying. Many people therefore work part-time. You are not allowed to work more than 20 hours during the lecture period (semester). You can also apply for state support: [Funding and scholarship](#)

No access to study?

Are you able to study in your home country with your school-leaving certificate? But not enough in Germany? You can catch up on your eligibility to study at a preparatory college. Studienkollegs are specially designed for applicants from abroad. The college prepares you for studying in Germany. However, there is no longer a state preparatory college in NRW. Instead, you take an external assessment test. You can find more information [here](#).

Are you able to study in your home country with your school-leaving certificate? Or have you already studied? But you don't have any documents to prove it? Some universities have special programmes for refugees. You then have to prove your ability to study with an assessment test and a test, for example [TestAS](#).

Prefer not to study?

Would you rather do practical work? Would you like to earn money directly? Then perhaps an apprenticeship is right for you. Find out more on the [Apprenticeship](#) page. You can find out a lot about your options here.

Studying in Remscheid and the surrounding area

Remscheid does not have its own university. But there are many good options in the neighbourhood. There are various universities in Wuppertal, Cologne and Düsseldorf. These offer exciting programmes for international students.

The **University of Wuppertal** has the "[In Touch](#)" project. This project helps international students to find their feet better in their studies and careers. In **Cologne**, there is the "[Studienstart International](#)" programme. It is aimed at students from countries that are not part of the EU. It helps students to receive good support at the beginning of their studies.

[Heinrich Heine University](#) in **Düsseldorf** also helps refugees. It offers German courses and provides support in choosing a degree programme and applying.

Distance learning

General information

Distance learning is studying from home. If you are unable to study full-time, this is a good option.

In a distance learning programme, students study at home with the university's materials.

You can also do this course alongside your job. You are flexible in terms of time and location. Students acquire their knowledge through specially prepared scripts, multimedia teaching materials, occasional face-to-face seminars and performance assessment based on the correction of assignments or examinations. A distance learning programme is a course of study at a university. It leads to an academic degree.

[Online study](#) is a special form of distance learning.

Where can I do a distance learning programme?

The [FernUniversität in Hagen](#) is unique. It is the only state-run distance learning university in the German-speaking world. This means that all other universities are private universities. The cost of studying at a private university is significantly higher.

You can find more options for distance learning in the [University Compass](#)

Costs

The cheapest option for studying remotely is offered by the FernUni Hagen. A complete Bachelor's degree programme there costs between 1,600 and 2,400 euros, while a Master's degree costs between 1,000 and 1,200 euros. Private distance learning universities are more expensive. Here, tuition fees usually total between 7,000 and 16,000 euros. However, upward and downward exceptions are of course possible.

Online study programme

It is sometimes difficult for people from other countries to get into a university. At Kiron Higher Education, you can study without paying tuition fees. You also don't need the legal documents to study there. Places are also not limited. The first two years of the degree programme take place as online courses via the internet. All courses are offered in English. It is possible to add subtitles in any language. The third year of the programme takes place at one of Kiron's partner universities. There is also the opportunity to learn German during the programme. A range of support and counselling services are also available.

 [Website Kiron](#)

Funding and scholarship

Are you a student? You can't afford to live during your studies? Then you can get financial support in Germany.

BAföG

There is the Federal Training Assistance Act (BAföG for short). You must submit an application. Then you can get money. This money covers your daily expenses.

The money is paid monthly. At best, you will receive the money for the duration of your studies. The monthly amount of BAföG can be up to €935. Half of the money must be paid back after your studies. You will receive detailed information on this.

The information on BAföG changes regularly. You can view this information via the following link

 [Website BAföG for refugees and migrants](#)

 [BAföG website - all information at a glance](#)

Scholarship

You can also apply for a scholarship. As a rule, you do not have to pay back a scholarship. There are certain requirements. You need good grades. And you must be involved in voluntary work. How much money do you receive as a scholarship? The amount is often calculated in the same way as the BAföG rate. In addition, there is a so-called "book allowance". This is a monthly payment of up to €300.

Certain organisations award the scholarships. They are often referred to as "Begabtenförderungswerke". The following organisations offer programmes specifically for refugees. Would you like to apply? The rules can be found on the websites. There you will also find information on what you need to be able to do.

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

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

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

 [Evangelisches Studienwerk Villigst - Our scholarship for refugees](#)

 [Bread for the World - Programme for Refugees](#) (for women only)

The Otto Benecke Foundation offers the Guarantee Fund. All young, newly arrived migrants can apply here. You will be supported if you want to obtain a higher education entrance qualification in Germany, prepare for a university degree and pursue an academic career.

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

There is also the Germany Scholarship. This provides €300 per month. The Germany Scholarships are awarded by the respective universities.

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

Further information can be found on the website of the Higher Education Campaign for Refugees and in the database of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

Some universities offer scholarships for international students. Have a look at the university's website. Or contact the university directly.

Student loan

Another way to pay for your studies is a student loan. A student loan is money that you borrow from the bank to pay for your studies. You have to pay the money back later. Usually after your studies, when you are working. You can find more information [here](#).

Catch up on school-leaving qualifications

Catching up on school-leaving qualifications in Germany

You can catch up on your school-leaving qualifications in Germany. This is important if you want to do an apprenticeship or study.

First school-leaving certificate and first extended school-leaving certificate

Don't have a school-leaving qualification?
Then you can obtain it in Germany.

Do you have a school-leaving certificate from your home country?
Then you can have it recognised. You will need your original certificate for this.

Do you not have your certificate?
Then you will have to take the school-leaving certificate again in Germany.

Intermediate school-leaving certificate

The Mittlerer Schulabschluss is higher than the Erste Erweiterte Schulabschluss.

Have you completed the First Advanced School Certificate in Germany?
If so, you can then catch up on the Mittlerer Schulabschluss.

Do you have a recognised school-leaving certificate from your home country?
Then you can also do the Mittlerer Schulabschluss.

Fachabitur and Abitur

Do you have a secondary school leaving certificate?
Then you can take the specialised A-levels or the Abitur.

- With the Fach-Abitur, you can study at a university of applied sciences.
- With the Abitur, you can study at a university.

Where can I catch up on school-leaving qualifications?

You can catch up on your school-leaving qualifications at various schools.

Volkshochschule Remscheid (VHS)

📍 [Scharffstr. 4-6, 42853 Remscheid](#)

🌐 <https://www.vhs.remscheid.de/>

Isabella Schunn | Schulische Abschlüsse

@ Isabella.Schunn@remscheid.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191162696](tel:+49(0)2191162696)

Andrea Achenbach | Schulische Abschlüsse

@ Andrea.Achenbach@remscheid.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191163967](tel:+49(0)2191163967)

💡 For refugees:

The Bergisches Kolleg has a special international class.
Here you can learn German and obtain a school-leaving certificate.
You must be at least 18 years old to do this.

Bergisches Weiterbildungskolleg

📍 [Pfalzgrafenstr. 32, 42119 Wuppertal](#)

@ bwbk@stadt.wuppertal.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2025632242](tel:+49(0)2025632242)

🌐 <https://www.bwbk.de/>

Do you still have questions?
Then make an appointment for an [educational counselling](#) session.

Recognition of foreign school-leaving qualifications**Recognition of school-leaving qualifications from abroad in North Rhine-Westphalia**

Have you finished school in another country?

Would you like to continue school in Remscheid?

- continue your schooling?
- do an apprenticeship?
- work?

Then you may need to have your school leaving certificate **recognised**.

Who can apply for recognition?

Anyone who lives in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Who checks my qualification?

There are two authorities:

1. the Cologne district government checks these qualifications:

- First school-leaving certificate (formerly Hauptschulabschluss after grade 9)
- Extended first school-leaving certificate (formerly Hauptschulabschluss after grade 10)
- Intermediate school leaving certificate (Fachoberschulreife)

2. district government Düsseldorf checks these qualifications:

- Fachhochschulreife (Fachabitur)
- General higher education entrance qualification (Abitur)

What do you need to do?

Have your certificate translated.

The translation must be done by a professional translation agency.

You can find a list of authorised translators and interpreters in Germany here:

 www.justiz-dolmetscher.de

Have your certificate notarised.

This means that an official body confirms that your certificate is genuine.

These offices can do this:

- Town hall or city administration
- Mayor or mayoress
- Notary public

Then submit an application for recognition.

Where can I have my qualification recognised?

- Up to the intermediate school leaving certificate → [Cologne district government](#)
- For the entrance qualification for universities of applied sciences or the Abitur → [Düsseldorf district government](#)

Do you still have questions?

Then make an appointment with the [educational counselling](#) service or the [youth migration service](#)

Family, children, youth and elderly people

Basic information on children, youth and family

Children, young people and families are under special protection in Germany. This protection begins during pregnancy and lasts until the child is 18 years old (of age). In Germany, for example, it is forbidden to beat children. Raising children in Germany must not involve the use of violence. Every child must go to school. There are also authorities that ensure that a child is not harmed by its environment (including the family).

The family is also legally protected in Germany. It doesn't matter whether the family consists of a mother and father and their children, or whether there are two mothers or two fathers, or whether the children are adopted. Single parents with their children are also a family.

Women can work during pregnancy, but there is [maternity protection](#).

Women do not have to work for 6 weeks before the birth and 8 weeks after the birth.

Parents receive parental allowance if they care for their baby after the birth.

Pregnant women can get help and counselling, e.g. [from Pro Familia or Caritas](#).

Pregnancy, birth and early childhood

Pregnancy and birth

Pregnant women in Germany enjoy special protection. They are allowed to seek counselling. You will be cared for by a doctor. And the state will support you with new purchases for the child. If you are pregnant, you must first go to a gynaecologist (gynaecologist). Have the check-ups carried out there. You will then receive a maternity pass. The maternity pass is a document containing important information about your pregnancy. It also contains information about your health. And that of your child. Always take your maternity record with you in case of emergencies.

Contraception

Midwife

Midwives support women and their families from the beginning of pregnancy to the end of breastfeeding. Midwives provide counselling during pregnancy. They can help with the birth. After the birth, they introduce breastfeeding. They also take care of the woman's physical and psychological recovery. Every woman can call on the help of a midwife. Most services are covered by health insurance.

 [Midwife search - Midwives Remscheid](#)

 [Midwifesearch.com](#)

 [Website Midwives Association](#)

Delivery and aftercare

Your gynaecologist will refer you to a maternity clinic. After the birth, ask there for a midwife or a midwife's assistant for aftercare. You will receive a birth certificate from the clinic.

Notification to the registry office

Newborn children must be registered with the [Standesamt](#) be registered. Do you live in accommodation? Then the birth must be reported to the management. The maternity clinic will register the birth with the registry office. There you will receive the (provisional) birth certificate for your child. Bring your identity card with you. You will also need the birth certificate from the clinic. Are you married? Bring your marriage certificate with you.

💡 Please only bring original documents. If your documents are in a foreign language, an officially certified German translation is required.

👥 Do you live in shared accommodation? Give your accommodation manager a copy of your birth certificate. Your child will then be registered.

Paediatricians

There are ten early detection examinations (U1-U9 and J1). This means that your child will be examined regularly until the age of 6. The paediatrician monitors your child's development. The U1 (examination after birth) and U2 examinations usually take place in the clinic. For further examinations, you must make an appointment with your paediatrician.

💡 Proof of complete early detection examinations may be requested when registering for daycare.

Contraception and unwanted pregnancy

You can decide for yourself whether you want to have children or not.
Nobody is allowed to force you to have a child.
This is called the right to family planning.

Contraception

There are many ways to avoid getting pregnant.
Some also help to prevent diseases during sex.
This is called contraception.

You can find more information here: www.zanzu.de

Sexual counselling

Sexual self-determination means that you decide for yourself who you have sex with. Nobody is allowed to force you.

You can talk about everything in sexual counselling:

about your body
about sexual orientation
about problems such as lack of desire or erection problems
about violence during sex
Counselling is safe and confidential.

Are you pregnant?
You can find help and counselling here:

during pregnancy and birth
Before and after pregnancy



[Pregnancy, birth and early childhood](#)

Unintended pregnancy

Are you pregnant but don't want to have a child?
Then you can terminate the pregnancy under certain conditions.
This is called a [termination of pregnancy](#).


Important:
Before an abortion is possible, you must first have a counselling interview.
The consultation takes place at a recognised counselling centre.
The counsellor will explain all the options to you.
In the end, the decision is yours alone.

Information in many languages is available here:
www.zanzu.de

Remscheid | Beratungsstelle Pro Familia


 [Winkelstr. 2a, 42853 Remscheid](#)

 @remscheid@profamilia.de


 [+492191973303](tel:+492191973303)

 <https://www.profamilia.de/angebote-vor-ort/nordrh...>

Caritas Remscheid | Beratung

 [Blumenstr. 9, 42853 Remscheid](#)

 @esperanza@caritas-rs.de

 [+49219149110](tel:+49219149110)

 <https://www.caritas-remscheid.de>

Schwangerenberatung | Beratungsstelle Diakonie

📍 [Schulgasse 1, 42853 Remscheid](#)

✉ @skb@diakonie-kklnep.de

☎ [+492191591600](tel:+492191591600)

🌐 <https://www.diakonie-remscheid.de/beratung/famili...>

Maternity pass, maternity protection and maternity benefit

The maternity record

If you are pregnant, you will receive a booklet from your gynaecologist or midwife: the maternity record.

It contains important information about your pregnancy:

- Results of examinations
- the expected date of birth

Please always bring your maternity record with you to your doctor's appointments.

What is maternity protection?

Maternity protection is a law in Germany. It protects you as a pregnant woman and young mother - at home and at work. So you can take good care of yourself and your baby.

How long does maternity leave last?

6 weeks before the birth: You are not allowed to work - unless you want to.

8 weeks after the birth: you are not allowed to work (compulsory).

12 weeks after the birth, if:

- the baby comes too early (premature birth)
- you have several babies (twins, triplets, etc.)
- the child has a disability

If the baby is born prematurely, the missing time before the birth is added on after the birth.

Who gets maternity leave?

You are entitled to maternity leave if you are employed in Germany:

are employed (full-time, part-time, mini-job)

are doing an apprenticeship or internship

have a fixed-term employment contract

Self-employed women do not have statutory maternity protection, but they can take out private cover.

What is maternity benefit?

You receive money during maternity leave:

Maternity benefit from the health insurance fund: up to €13 per day
 Allowance from your employer: they pay the difference to your full salary
[→ How to continue receiving your full salary](#)

💡 Mini job or privately insured?
 Then you can apply for maternity benefit via the Federal Insurance Office.

You can find out how and where to apply for maternity benefit in the ["Maternity benefit"](#) category

Protection in the workplace

If you are pregnant, you have special rights:

No heavy labour
 No work with hazardous substances or noise
 No night or Sunday shifts if your health does not allow it
 Protection against dismissal: You may not be dismissed during pregnancy and up to 4 months after the birth

Counselling & help

You can seek advice from

Your health insurance company
 Your employer

Counselling centres such as Pro Familia, Caritas, Diakonie, social services in Remscheid can be found in the category ["Counselling for pregnant women"](#)

Tip: Parental allowance

After maternity leave, you can apply for parental allowance.
 This is money for mums or dads who stay at home after the birth.
 You can receive it for up to 14 months. You can find out more about parental allowance in the ["Parental allowance and parental leave"](#) category.

Parental leave and parental allowance

Parental leave

What is parental leave?

Parental leave means:
 You take time off work to be there for your child.

Important to know:

Both parents can take up to 3 years of parental leave.

During this time:

- you are protected against dismissal

- you may return to your old job
- Parental leave can also be taken part-time

Registration:

You must register your parental leave with your employer in good time
Preferably in writing and at least 7 weeks in advance

Where can you get help?

At your parental allowance office

At advice centres such as Pro Familia, Caritas, Diakonie (see category "[Advice for pregnant women](#)")

On the NRW family portal:

□ www.familienportal.nrw

Parental allowance

What is parental allowance?

Parental allowance is money from the state.

It helps parents who work less after the birth or stay at home to look after their baby.

What are the benefits of parental allowance?

It compensates for the loss of earnings if you do not work or work less.

You can receive parental allowance for up to 14 months.

Both parents can split the months between them.

How much money do I get?

This depends on your income before the birth.

As a rule: 65% to 67% of your last net income (max. approx. €1,800 per month).

When do you submit the application?

After the birth of your child at the earliest.

Apply as soon as possible so that the money arrives soon.

You can find out where and how to apply for parental allowance in the "[Parental allowance](#)" category

Counselling for pregnant women

There are many gynaecologists and midwives in Remscheid who can support pregnant women during this time. There are also three counselling centres for pregnant women. Pregnancy is not always planned. Sometimes it happens at a difficult time or there is not enough money. Remscheid also offers help and counselling in such situations.

Some questions you may not want to discuss with your gynaecologist or you may find yourself in an emergency situation in which a doctor cannot help you.

The following counselling centres are available in Remscheid:

Sexualpädagogik in Schulen und Jugendgruppen

📍 [Blumenstr. 9, 42853 Remscheid](#)

✉ @esperanza@caritasverbandremscheid.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 219149110](tel:+49(0)219149110)

🌐 <https://www.caritas-remscheid.de/hilfe-angebote/k...>

Schwangerenberatung | Beratungsstelle Diakonie

📍 [Schulgasse 1, 42853 Remscheid](#)

✉ @skb@diakonie-kklenenp.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191591600](tel:+49(0)2191591600)

🌐 <https://www.diakonie-remscheid.de/beratung/famili...>

Beratungsstelle Pro Familia

📍 [Winkelstr. 2a, 42853 Remscheid](#)

✉ @remscheid@profamilia.de

☎ [+49 \(0\) 2191973303](tel:+49(0)2191973303)

🌐 <https://www.profamilia.de/angebote-vor-ort/nordrh...>

Checklist before and after the birth

Important official procedures and applications for parents

[Here you will find two detailed checklists of things to consider before and after the birth.](#)

During the pregnancy

✓ Inform your health insurance company

If you are pregnant, let your health insurance company know.

You will then receive maternity benefit. This is money that you receive if you do not work before and after the birth. You can read more about maternity protection and maternity benefit in the "[Maternity pass, maternity protection and maternity benefit](#)" category.

✓ Inform your employer

Tell your boss that you are pregnant.

Then special rules apply to you - this is called [maternity protection](#).

For example: you are not allowed to do any heavy work.

✓ Calculate the maternity protection period

Maternity protection begins 6 weeks before the due date.

It ends 8 weeks after the birth (for premature or multiple births: 12 weeks).

You are not allowed to work during this time and will still receive pay.

Shortly before the birth

- ✓ Choose health insurance for your baby
Ask yourself: Who will the baby be insured with - mum or dad?
Talk to the health insurance company and choose one.

- ✓ Get forms for child benefit and parental allowance
These forms are available:

Child benefit: Family benefits office (employment agency)

Parental allowance: from the parental allowance office in your city

Tip: Get the forms before the birth - then everything will go faster later.

After the birth

- ✓ Apply for a birth certificate
After the birth, you will receive a certificate from the hospital.
Take it to [the registry office](#).
You will receive the birth certificate there.
You will need it for many applications.

- ✓ Inform your health insurance company about the birth
Call the health insurance company or write an e-mail.
Send them a copy of the birth certificate.
Then the baby is insured.

- ✓ Apply for child benefit
Fill in the form and send it to the family benefits office.
You will need the birth certificate.
You will receive child benefit every month.

- ✓ Apply for parental allowance
Do you want to stay at home for a while to look after the baby?
Then apply for parental allowance at the parental allowance office.
You will also need the birth certificate and sometimes other documents (e.g. proof of salary).

- ✓ Inform your employer about parental leave (if desired)
If you do not want to work for a while because you are looking after your baby, tell your employer.
You must state in writing how long you would like to take parental leave.

Childcare and kindergarten (KiTa)

Childcare

In Germany, there are various options for who can look after children.

What childcare options are there?

Child day care centre (KiTa), day care facility, kindergarten - This is where children are looked after and supported during the day. Your child can go to a daycare centre from the age of 1 and stay there until they reach school age (6 years). Some daycare centres also accept babies under the age of 1. In the last year, there are often pre-school lessons to prepare the children for school.

Child day care - For children from 1 to 3 years. Small groups, close supervision, lots of support for development.

Childminder - One person looks after a small group of children at home.

Family or babysitter care - Grandparents, relatives or paid babysitters can also look after children.

Why is daycare important?

Your child learns German and makes friends.

It learns rules and procedures that are important at school.

They can play, do handicrafts and try out new things.

They will have a fixed daily structure and support.

How do I enrol my child?

In Remscheid, enrolment takes place via the "[Little Bird](#)" online portal

You should enrol your child early, preferably one year before the start.

The daycare centre will inform you whether your child will be accepted.

Before enrolment, parents must visit the daycare centre in person.

If you cannot find a place, the youth welfare office will help you find one.

What does childcare cost?

Some daycare centres are free, others cost money.

Whether you have to pay depends on your income.

You can ask the youth welfare office for financial help.

@k inderbe@treuung@remscheid.de

Help from language mediators in the daycare centre

Language mediators help parents and carers to understand each other better.

There are volunteer language mediators in Remscheid. They translate during initial discussions or development talks, for example.

Ask your daycare centre if someone can help with this.

How can the daycare centre request language mediators?

The daycare centre can request language mediators from the Municipal Integration Centre.

More information and the application form can be found on the website of the City of Remscheid:

□ [Lay language mediator pool | City of Remscheid](#)

□ [Directly to the enquiry](#)

Would you like to help yourself?

You can register as a volunteer language mediator. You can find out more under "Interpreting and language mediation".

Duty of supervision - Who looks after children?

Parents have a duty of supervision. This means that

Parents must ensure that their child is safe.

Children must not be left alone for too long if it is dangerous.

Parents decide who is allowed to look after their child (e.g. grandparents, babysitters).

When can a child be left alone?

✓ Under the age of 3: Always under supervision.

3 to 6 years: Only for a short time, but not outside.

6 to 10 years: At home alone for a short time, but with clear rules.

✓ From 10 years of age: Can stay alone for longer, but not at night.

✓ From the age of 14: Teenagers are allowed to be alone for longer, but parents are still responsible.

⚠ Important: If parents leave their child alone for too long or too early and something happens, they can get into trouble.

Offers for children and young people

There are many great offers for children, young people and families in Remscheid.

Under the category of [leisure, culture and sport](#), for example, you will find sports, music, theatre and exciting events.

Remscheid is divided into four districts: Alt-Remscheid, Lennep, Lüttringhausen and Hasten.

The youth centres are sorted according to these districts so that you can quickly find what is available in your area.

Take a look - there is sure to be something for you!

Clubs (e.g. sports, music or hobbies)

[Sports and swimming clubs](#)

[Experience nature \(parks, forests, hiking trails\)](#)

[Museums, theatre and cinema](#)

[Art and music schools](#)

[Libraries \(where you can borrow books, films and games\)](#)

[Ruhr Top Card \(this gives you discounts on many leisure activities in the region\)](#)

You can also find information about

Youth organisations

Youth centres and leisure clubs in Remscheid

These places offer great activities, help and fun for young people!

Old Remscheid:

- [Astronomical Society Remscheid e.V.](#)
- [Federal Agency for Technical Relief](#)
- [Caritas Association Remscheid e.V.](#)
- [CVJM Remscheid e.V.](#)
- [DPB German Scout Association - Hohenstaufen](#)
- [Die Wiege e.V.](#)
- [Echt Kremig](#)
- [Protestant Adolf Clarenbach parish](#)

- [Evangelical Christ Church Parish](#)
- [Evangelical Free Church Community Remscheid](#)
- [St John's parish](#)
- [Lutheran parish](#)
- [Protestant parish of Hasten, Kremenholz and Honsberg](#)
- [Remscheid Volunteer Fire Brigade - Youth Fire Brigade](#)
- [Kraftstation - independent youth work centre Remscheid Mitte](#)
- [Gelbe Villa - Independent youth work Remscheid-Mitte e.V.](#)
- [Förderverein für Umweltbildung Remscheid e.V. and Naturschule Grund](#)
- [IKE Association for the Promotion of Intercultural Education](#)
- [Jesus Freaks Remscheid e.V.](#)
- [Catholic young community / KJG St. Josef](#)
- [Catholic young community / KJG St. Marien](#)
- [Catholic parish of St Engelbert](#)
- [Nabu City Association Remscheid](#)
- [Neighbourhood association](#)

Remscheid South:

- [Bürgerhaus Süd e.V.](#)
- [Remscheid sports youth organisation](#)
- [Association of Christian Scouts and Guides - VCP](#)

Remscheid Lennep:

- [Bergisch Born Protestant parish](#)
- [Lennep Volunteer Fire Brigade - Youth Fire Brigade](#)
- [German Scout Association of St George, DPSG Lennep Tribe](#)
- ["Die Welle" Association for the promotion of youth work in Remscheid gGmbH](#)
- [Protestant parish of Lennep](#)
- [Protestant church district of Lennep - youth department](#)

Remscheid Lüttringhausen:

- [CVJM Lüttringhausen e.V.](#)
- [Evangelical Free Church Community Lüttringhausen](#)
- Protestant parish of Lüttringhausen
- [Lüttringhausen Volunteer Fire Brigade - Youth Fire Brigade](#)
- [Jugendhilfe Remscheid "Die Schlawiner" gGmbH, children's and youth centre](#)
- [Catholic parish of Heilig Kreuz and St Bonaventura](#)

Superordinate associations - umbrella organisation:

- [BDKJ RS & SG Federation of German Catholic Youth Regional Association for Remscheid and Solingen](#)

- [Catholic Youth Agency Wuppertal gGmbH](#)

Registering with an association

How to register yourself or your child with a club

There are many clubs in Remscheid.

A club is a group of people who do something together - for example sports, music, handicrafts or dancing.

If you or your child would like to join a club, there are a few steps to follow:

1. Get information
Ask the club what programmes are on offer. Many clubs have courses for children, teenagers and adults. There are often favourable offers for families with little money.
2. Fill in the registration form
If you would like to take part, you need to fill in a form. This is called a registration form.
You write there:
Name and date of birth of you or your child
Address and telephone number
sometimes also whether your child can swim or has allergies
3. Sign and hand in
The form must be signed. Then hand it in to the club - often at the office or to a course instructor.
4. Pay the fee
Many clubs cost a little money. This is called a membership fee.
You often pay once a month or once a year.
If you have little money, you can get help - for example with the [education and participation package](#). Ask the organisation or the city.
5. Get started and join in!
Once registration is complete, you can get started!
Your child can then come to the club regularly, play with others, learn or do sport.

Support for youth and family

Youth welfare office

The youth welfare office looks after the welfare of children and young people. It helps families when they need support and intervenes when children are in danger.

Child endangerment (8a procedure):

If a child is in danger, for example due to violence, neglect or abuse, the youth welfare office examines the situation. It talks to the parents and looks for solutions to protect the child. In serious cases, it can also place the child in a safe environment.


General Social Services (ASD):

The ASD is a department of the youth welfare office. It advises families, helps in difficult situations and supports parents so that the children are well.

Allgemeiner Sozialer Dienst (ASD)

📍 [Alleestraße 66, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@soziale.dienste@remscheid.de

 [+49 \(0\) 21911600](tel:+49(0)21911600)

You can find more information about the [General Social Service](#) on the City of Remscheid website, where you will also find several contact addresses for various issues.

Family benefits

Maternity benefit

How do you apply for maternity benefit?

Before the birth:

Certificate from the doctor or midwife

You will receive the "Certificate of the expected date of delivery" in two copies:

One for the health insurance fund

One for your employer

Fill in & hand in

Complete the reverse side (name, address, signature)

Send a copy to the health insurance company

Give a copy to your employer

You will receive maternity benefit for the 6 weeks before the birth.

After the birth:

Send the birth certificate to the health insurance fund

This certificate must contain the note:

"Only applies to pregnancy and maternity assistance".

Many health insurance funds have an online portal where you can upload documents.

You will then receive maternity benefit for the 8 weeks after the birth (or 12 weeks if your baby is premature or has twins).

Later, you will automatically receive a certificate confirming the maternity benefit paid - you will need this to apply for parental allowance.

Important for the self-employed

With daily sickness allowance insurance: Submit the certificate to your health insurance company.

Without daily sickness allowance insurance: You must also submit an application to the ☐ Federal Social Security Office (BAS).

[Click here for the application form](#)

Parental allowance

The parental allowance office for Remscheid, Solingen and Wuppertal is located in Wuppertal.

Stadt Wuppertal - Elterngeldstelle

📍 [Neumarkt 10, 42103 Wuppertal](#)

✉️ @elterngeldkasse@stadt-wuppertal.de

Personal appointment:

- Only with appointment by e-mail
- It is best to write directly to the parental allowance office

How to send the application:

Download the form here:

www.fami.lienportal.nrw/elterngeld/antrag

Fill in the application form

Send everything by post to:

📍 City of Wuppertal 208.42 - Parental allowance office
Neumarkt 10, 42103 Wuppertal

Alternatively: Drop the documents in the letterbox at the building.

Read more about parental allowance [here](#).

Child benefit

Child benefit

Child benefit is paid until the child's 18th birthday, and up to the age of 25 if the child is in training or studying.

From 01.01.2025:

255 € per child / month

Application at the family benefits office of the employment agency

Online: www.familienkasse.de

Or on site

Families receive additional tax benefits

Child benefit supplement

Child supplement (KiZ)

Child supplement is for families with a low income - in addition to child benefit.

Prerequisites:

- Child is under 25 & lives with you
- You receive child benefit
- Income: at least €900 gross (couples), €600 (single parents)

- With KiZ there is enough money for the family
- Amount: up to € 205 per child / month

Application: at the family benefits office

Online: [Application for child supplement](#)

Further benefits:

- Free lunch at school & daycare centre
- School supplies package (€150 / year)
- No daycare centre fees
- Possible entitlement to housing benefit

Package for education and participation

Help for children and young people from families with little money

The **education and participation package** helps children and young people from families with little money. It enables them to take part in many programmes.

What is paid for?

- Excursions and school trips: The costs for excursions and trips lasting several days with the school or daycare centre are covered.
- School supplies: Every school year there is money for school rucksacks, pens, sports kit and other essentials.
- Travel to school: If the journey to school is too far, the travel costs are covered.
- Private tuition: If a child needs private tuition, this can be paid for.
- Lunch: The cost of lunch at school or daycare centre is covered.
- Leisure, sport and music: Children under the age of 18 receive 15 euros per month for sports clubs, music lessons or other leisure activities.

Who can receive this support?

Families who receive unemployment benefit II (citizen's allowance), social welfare, housing benefit, child supplement or benefits for asylum seekers are entitled to this support.

How do you get the subsidy?

Those who receive unemployment benefit II usually do not have to submit a separate application (except for private tuition).

All other families must apply for the benefits from the city.

The money often goes directly to the school, club or provider - no extra work for the parents!


Important: Always submit the application in good time before costs are incurred!

Where and how can benefits for education and participation be applied for?


There are two ways to apply for education and participation benefits:


- for recipients of citizen's allowance:

Bildung und Teilhabepaket | Jobcenter Remscheid

 [Bismarckstr. 8-10, 42853 Remscheid](#)

 @jobcenter-remscheid@jobcenter-ge.de

 [+49 \(0\) 21919518222](tel:+49(0)21919518222)

 Mondays - Thursdays 7:30 am - 1:00 pm Fridays: 7:30 am - 12:30 pm

further information under this link:


<https://www.jobcenter-remscheid.de/bildung-und-te...>


- for recipients of social assistance, child supplement, housing benefit:

Bildung und Teilhabe | FD Jugend, Soziales und Wohnen

 [Haddenbacher Str. 38-42, 42855 Remscheid](#)

 @bildungundteilhabe@remscheid.de

 [+49 \(0\) 2191163753](tel:+49(0)2191163753)

 Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays: 9:00 - 12:00, Wednesdays 13:00 - 16:00, closed on Fridays

Application forms are available on site from your contact person. Alternatively, you can visit the website of the contact point where you are applying for benefits.

Possibility of counselling

If you have any questions about the application process, the "Bildung und Teilhabe" counselling team will be happy to help.

How to contact the BuT counselling service:

 [BuT counselling website](#)

 [0 30 57 71 30 04 0](tel:030577130040)

 @info@but-beratung.de

Counselling is free of charge. Counselling is also available in English, Arabic, Russian and Turkish.

[You](#) can download [flyers](#) in Russian, Turkish, Arabic, Tigrin and Ukrainian [here](#)

Maintenance advance for single parents

Advance maintenance payments Help for single parents

If the other parent does not pay or pays irregularly, the state provides support.

Who receives maintenance advance?


- You are a single parent
- Your child lives with you
- The other parent does not pay enough
- You and the child live in Germany
- For children aged 12-17:
- No citizen's allowance or only with advance payment not necessary
- You earn at least €600 gross if you receive citizen's allowance
- Also for: unknown father or deceased parent




No entitlement if:

- You are married and living with a new partner
- You live with the other parent
- The other parent pays regularly
- You do not provide any information about the other parent

Advice is available from:

[On the website of the city of Remscheid](#)

 Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays 9:00 - 12:00, Wednesdays 13:00 - 16:00, closed on Fridays
otherwise appointments by arrangement

 Haddenbacher Str. 38, 42855 Remscheid, 1st floor, room 117
 0 21 91 16 36 35
 vg@remscheid.de

[Click here for the application](#)

Single parent

Families are different

There are many different families in Germany. Some parents are married, others live together without a marriage licence. But not all couples stay together. Many children therefore grow up with only one parent.

How many single parents are there?

There are over 8 million families with children in Germany. Of these, 18 per cent are single parents. This means that around 1.5 million parents live alone with their children. In most cases, this is the mother.

Work and childcare

Single parents often find it difficult to combine work and family. Many want to work, but they need good childcare facilities for their children. This is why there are laws such as the Childcare Promotion Act or the Childcare Centre Quality Act. These ensure that children get a childcare place early on.

Financial help for single parents

Single parents often have more costs than other families. There are various forms of help:

- Child benefit and maintenance advance
- Child supplement for families with low income
- Housing benefit and citizen's allowance if there is not enough money
- Tax relief: single parents receive 4260 euros less tax per year. There is an extra 240 euros for each additional child.
Advance maintenance payments
- If a parent pays no or irregular maintenance, there is a maintenance advance. The money is paid until the child's 12th birthday. Under certain conditions, it is also available until the child's 18th birthday.

[You can find more information on the family portal. Here single parents can find contacts and offers of help.](#)

or here:

[Single parents | City of Remscheid](#)

[Remscheid Child Protection Association " Mothers' meeting place "Mama mia"](#)

Children with disabilities

Some disabilities are visible immediately after birth, others develop later due to illness or accident.

Children with disabilities need special care. After initial care in the paediatric clinic, further examinations and consultations follow, e.g. in a social paediatric centre or a special outpatient clinic. The paediatric clinic or paediatrician can provide information on this.

[You can find information on mental disabilities here.](#)


Early intervention supports the development of babies and toddlers. Integrative daycare centres offer additional therapies.

The following additional contact details:

Lebenshilfe Remscheid e.V. has been in existence for over 50 years. It is a non-profit organisation and supports people with disabilities - no matter how old they are. There are many programmes on offer: for children, young people and adults. These include early intervention, help with starting a career and accommodation for the elderly.

Lebenshilfe has two integrative daycare centres in Remscheid: **Hagedornweg daycare centre** and **Fuchsweg daycare centre**

Lebenshilfe Remscheid e.V.

 [Thüringsberg 7 u. 9, 42897 Remscheid](#)

[@info@lebenshilfe-remscheid.de](mailto:info@lebenshilfe-remscheid.de)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 21919930](tel:+49(0)21919930)

🌐 <https://lebenshilfe-remscheid.de/>

The **Montessori children's centre** is a place for learning and discovery. Here, children can try things out for themselves and gain experience.

They learn at their own pace. The people around them and the environment in which they play and learn are important - just like at home.

[Montessori Children's Centre](#)

📍 Ronsdorfer Straße 62, 42855 Remscheid

☎ 0 21 91 94 95 70

@ kontakt@moki-rs.de

The **St. Josef day care centre** has four groups. There is also an extra programme for families in the district. All children can take part - including children with disabilities. This is why the groups vary in size.

[The integrative St. Josef day care centre](#)

📍 Menninghauser Straße 5c, 42859 Remscheid

☎ 0 21 91 30 51 9

@k ita-stjosef-rs@erzbistum-koeln.de

Kita Fürberg e.V. has many programmes for all children. Every child can take part and have a say. The children learn to be nice to each other and to do things themselves. Exercise and healthy food are very important. Everything is fun and together!

[Municipal integrative day care centre Fürberg e.V.](#)

📍 Fürberger Str. 24, 42857 Remscheid

☎ 0 21 91 79 16 37

@K TEFuerberg@remscheid.de

Unaccompanied refugee minors

Is a refugee under the age of 18? Have they travelled to Germany unaccompanied? Then they are classed as an unaccompanied minor foreigner = umA. These young people are reported to the youth welfare office. The youth welfare office talks to the young person. The Youth Welfare Office determines their age.

- The person is under 18 years old. Then the person is a minor. The Youth Welfare Office takes care of this person. The Youth Welfare Office places the person in accommodation for young people.
- The person is over 18 years old. Then the person is of legal age. They receive a rejection notice. Alternatively, they are treated as an adult.

💡 The Youth Welfare Office will bring an interpreter to the interview.

💡 You are not yet 18 years old on your proof of arrival? The Youth Welfare Office gives you a rejection notice? Then the Youth Welfare Office must enter a new date of birth on the notification. Only then can you have your documents changed at the Immigration Office and the Social Welfare Office.

Some minors (persons under the age of 18) travel **with relatives**. This could be an uncle or aunt. They could be cousins or older siblings. Your accommodation provider will report this to the Youth Welfare Office after your arrival. The Youth Welfare Office will speak to the minor and the adult relatives. The Youth Welfare Office will check whether the minor can stay there. The Youth Welfare Office will also decide whether a guardian should be appointed. The youth welfare office itself brings an interpreter to the interview.

💡 The adult relatives can also apply to the family court for guardianship themselves. The guardianship gives the relative full responsibility for the minor instead of the parents.

The **youth migration service** in Remscheid helps young migrants between the ages of 12 and 27 to find their way in Germany - at school, at work and in everyday life. It offers advice and support with school and career choices, the recognition of qualifications, job applications, personal problems and, if necessary, refers them to other support services.

IB Internationaler Bund | Jugendmigrationsdienst

📍 [Am Bruch 21 - 23, 42853 Remscheid](#)

✉ [@jmd-remscheid@ib.de](mailto:jmd-remscheid@ib.de)

☎ [+49 \(0\) 21916941310](tel:+49(0)21916941310)

🌐 <https://www.internationaler-bund.de/standort/2019...>

🕒 Mondays to Fridays 8.30 - 14.00

Older people, senior citizens

In 2020, around 18.3 million people over the age of 65 lived in Germany. And this number is growing every year. They now make up more than 22% of the total population. Older people often need care or help in the home. The older people are, the more likely they are to need help. Some also live alone. This sometimes means that their social contacts become fewer. Social contacts are important for mental health.

Here you can find offers for senior citizens in Remscheid.

Seniorenbüro

The city of Remscheid's senior citizens' office helps all older people in the city with important questions and concerns. It shows you who you can turn to if you need support.

Senior citizens can get help here with

Severely disabled person's pass

Healthcare proxy and living wills

Questions about pensions, taxes or care

Housing in old age, basic income support or housing benefit

Problems in everyday life, such as using a mobile phone.

The senior citizens' office is also a meeting place for older people. There are regular events and information, which are published in the newspaper or on the website.

If you have any questions or need help, just drop by - the team will be happy to help!

Seniorenbüro | Seniorenbüro der Stadt Remscheid

📍 [Alte Bismarckstr. 4, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@Seniorenbuero@remscheid.de

☎ [+4921914645350](tel:+4921914645350)

🌐 <https://www.remscheid.de/menschen-soziales/senior...>

The city of Remscheid also has a Seniorenbeirat:

The City of Remscheid's Seniors' Advisory Council is elected by all citizens aged 60 and over.

The council campaigns for the interests of older people in Remscheid. For example, it works to improve local transport and to ensure that there are enough shopping facilities in every neighbourhood.

The Seniors' Advisory Council wants older people to be able to remain active and independent. It is committed to ensuring that there are good leisure, cultural and sports facilities in Remscheid. It also ensures that paths, shops and buildings are barrier-free.

The advisory board also supports issues such as care, home help and further education for senior citizens. It is the voice of the older generation and helps to make their concerns visible.

Anyone with questions or concerns can visit the advisory board at the senior citizens' office or write an email. There are also regular consultation hours.

Seniorenbeirat

📍 [Theodor-Heuss-Platz 1, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@seniorenbeirat@remscheid.de

🌐 <https://www.remscheid.de/menschen-soziales/senior...>

What happens when I am old and can no longer work?

In Germany, there is the [German Pension Insurance \(DRV\)](#). It ensures that people receive money in old age if they can no longer work.

Who pays the pension?

The pension is paid jointly by employees and employers. Both give part of their money to the pension insurance fund.

How do I get my pension?

The pension is not paid automatically. You have to apply for it yourself. You should do this at least 3 months before you want to retire.

Where can I get help?

There are advice centres where you can get all the important information about pensions. There you can find out which pension applies to you and which benefits you can claim.

The following centres are responsible for Remscheid:

Rentenberatung

📍 [Markt 13, 42853 Remscheid](#)

☎ 0 21 91 16 27 06

Information/applications are usually made by telephone without an appointment.

Personal consultations take place after prior appointment by telephone!

Telephone availability:

Mon - Fri 8.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

Tue - Thu 13.00 to 14.00

Is there any other help?

Yes, pension insurance not only pays money in old age. It also offers rehabilitation programmes so that people can return to work. This has no disadvantage for the pension - it can often even increase it.

You can find more information on the German Pension Insurance website.

You can find more information on leisure activities for senior citizens in Remscheid on the page [Offers for senior citizens](#)

Health and emergency

Emergency numbers - SOS

An emergency is a sudden, serious threat to health, life or public safety.

For example:

- someone is in great danger,
- someone is seriously injured or very ill,
- something is on fire,
- or the safety of many people is threatened.

In such acute emergencies, call the fire and rescue service or the police.

Emergency contacts:

Police ☎ [110](#)

The **police** are responsible in the event of acute danger, criminal offences or if you need urgent police assistance. Call the police if

- a crime has been committed (e.g. theft, burglary, threats, assault),
- someone has run away after an accident,
- or if you feel threatened.

Fire brigade, rescue service ☎ [112](#)

The **fire brigade** extinguishes fires. They also help with accidents and hazards, for example

- if people are injured,
- if oil or chemicals are leaking,
- smoke or gas,
- in the event of flooding,
- storm damage,
- or when people are in distress.

The **rescue service** helps in life-threatening emergencies, for example

- if someone cannot breathe,
- if someone has very severe pain in their stomach or back,
- if someone falls unconscious,
- if someone is losing a lot of blood,
- in the event of serious injuries,
- in case of allergic shock,
- if someone suddenly can no longer see, speak or move.

💡 The emergency numbers 110 and 112 always work, even if your mobile phone is out of money.

Important information for an emergency call:

- **Where** is the emergency location?
- **Wait** for further enquiries!

Remain calm. Speak slowly and clearly. Then you will be better understood. Do not end the call. Has all the important information been communicated? The fire and rescue service control centre or the police will end the call.

Nora emergency call app for the fire brigade, rescue service and police

The emergency call app is an additional way of contacting the police, fire brigade and ambulance service even without a voice emergency call:

🌐 <https://www.nora-notruf.de/de-as/startseite>

Hospital:


💡 Are you going to hospital? Don't forget your ID card or proof of arrival. Are you registered with a health insurance company? Bring your insurance card with you.

Sana Klinikum Remscheid | Krankenhaus

📍 [Bürgerstraße 211, 42859 Remscheid](#)

☎ [+492191130](#)

 <https://www.sana.de/remscheid>

 As an asylum seeker, you may only go to hospital in an emergency without a treatment voucher. You must show your proof of arrival at the hospital. The hospital will then recognise that you are seeking asylum. The costs will be paid by the social welfare office.

Other important telephone numbers in an emergency:

The medical on-call service [116 117](tel:116117)

The medical on-call service helps if you are ill but it is **not an emergency**. You can call them

- if your doctor is closed,
- if you cannot wait until the next consultation, for example if you have a fever, flu or other illnesses that are not life-threatening.

Dental emergency number [01805 98 67 00*](tel:01805986700)

This number provides dental help for acute pain or emergencies outside regular surgery hours.

*14 cents/min. from a German landline - the charges from the mobile network depend on the respective provider.

Poison emergency call centre at Bonn University Hospital [0228 19240](tel:022819240)

The poison emergency call centre is available 24 hours a day for laypersons and medical professionals in the event of acute or chronic poisoning caused by medicines, plants, drugs, animals, fungi, household products or chemicals.

Emergency pharmacies [0800 002 28 33](tel:08000022833)

The pharmacy emergency service helps when pharmacies are closed. This means you can also get important medicines in the evening, at night or at the weekend. Some pharmacies are always open, but not all at the same time. You can find out which pharmacy is open in your neighbourhood by calling the number.

You can also find an emergency pharmacy near you here: 

<https://www.aponet.de/apotheke/notdienstsuche/Rem...>

Patient transport [19222](tel:19222)

Patient transport is used to **transport people who require medical care** but are not acutely ill or injured in a life-threatening condition.

Qualified patient transport with the ambulance service must be ordered by a doctor.


Other important service telephone numbers if help is needed:

City of Remscheid

The website of the City of Remscheid at www.remscheid.de offers further assistance. A translation function can be used on the pages.

ASD on-call service | Youth Welfare Office

 [Theodor-Heuss-Platz 1, 42853 Remscheid](#)

 [+492191163944](tel:+492191163944)

The Youth Welfare Office protects children and supports families. It should be contacted if there are concerns about the child's welfare or parenting issues.

Hotline for missing children ☎ [116 000](tel:116000)

This hotline is a central point of contact for all matters relating to missing children, both for current missing children cases and for prevention.

Hotline for victims of violence ☎ [116 006](tel:116006)

This hotline offers confidential help and counselling for people who have experienced physical or psychological violence. It is available around the clock, free of charge and anonymous.

Women's refuge ☎ [02191 99 70 16](tel:02191997016)

The women's refuge is a safe place for women and their children. They can go there if they experience violence at home.

For example

- if they are beaten or threatened,
- if they are pressurised or coerced.

At the women's refuge they get

- Protection,
- a place to live,
- counselling and support.

There, women and their children can calmly consider how they want to organise their lives anew and freely.

Psychological Counselling Centre Remscheid ☎ [02191 16 3888](tel:02191163888)

The Psychological Counselling Centre offers support for mental health problems, crises or psychological stress. It can be used for personal, family or school difficulties.

You can also book a [crisis appointment](#) here

"Violence against women" helpline ☎ [116 016](tel:116016)

The number is available day and night. The call is free and anonymous. Women can get counselling in many languages. The number helps women who experience violence. For example:

- Violence in a marriage or partnership,
- sexual harassment or rape,
- stalking,
- forced marriage,
- human trafficking or forced prostitution.

"Nummer gegen Kummer" counselling for children and young people ☎ [116 111](tel:116111)

The "Nummer gegen Kummer" is for children and young people. They can call anonymously if they have worries or problems.

The call is free and anonymous. Friendly counsellors speak on the phone. They listen and help.

Telephone counselling ☎ [0800 111 0111](tel:08001110111) or ☎ [0800 111 0222](tel:08001110222)

The telephone counselling service is for everyone. You can call them if you are worried, sad or need someone to talk to.

The call is free and anonymous. The counsellors will listen to you and help you. The telephone counselling service is available around the clock.

Card blocking emergency call ☎ [116 116](tel:116116)

This emergency call helps to quickly block lost or stolen cards such as EC cards, credit cards, ID cards or online access. It is available around the clock and protects against card misuse.

You can find more useful telephone numbers [here](#)

General information on health

Are you in pain or ill? In Germany you can get help if you are ill. Some vaccinations are recommended by the state. You can get immunised. There are also examinations that help to prevent illness. You can have these examinations. Some examinations are very important for your health. These examinations are free of charge from doctors. See a doctor if:

- You are ill or in pain,
- you are pregnant,
- you have a recurring illness, for example diabetes, epilepsy or a mental illness.

You can find a list of doctors [here](#).

You can also search online at the address: [116117.de - Arzt- und Psychotherapeutensuche](http://116117.de)

💡 Do you still have medication? Or do you have the package leaflet for your medication? Bring them with you to your doctor's appointment.

Have you already been to a doctor or hospital because of the illness? Bring the findings with you.

👤 Do you have a residence permit? Then you must register with a normal health insurance company. There you will receive an insurance card. You can go to the doctor with this card. You will then receive the same help as everyone else in Germany.

Hospitals and clinics

Hospitals and clinics are places where people get help when they are ill or injured.

Hospital:


A hospital is a large building. Many doctors and nurses work there. People come to hospital when they are seriously ill or need an operation. There are different departments, for example for emergencies, for operations or for seriously ill people.


Clinic:

A clinic is often smaller than a hospital. Doctors and nurses also work in a clinic. Clinics are usually specialised in certain diseases or treatments. For example, there are clinics for eyes, teeth or skin. Some clinics only treat people for a short time and then let them go home again.

Both places help when you are ill, but the hospital is larger and offers more treatments.


Sana Klinikum Remscheid | Krankenhaus

 [Burgerstraße 211, 42859 Remscheid](#)


 [+49 \(0\) 2191130](#)

 <https://www.sana.de/remscheid>

Empfang | Fabricius Klinik

 [Brüderstraße 65, 42853 Remscheid](#)

 [@info.FKR@sana.de](mailto:info.FKR@sana.de)


 [+49 \(0\) 21917870](#)

 <https://www.sana.de/fabricius-remscheid>

Empfang | Stiftung Tannenhof

 [Remscheiderstraße 76, 42899 Remscheid](#)

 [@info@stiftung-tannenhof.de](mailto:info@stiftung-tannenhof.de)


 [+49 \(0\) 2191120](#)

Health insurance

In Germany, everyone must have insurance. Do you have a residence permit? Then you must register with a normal health insurance company. There you will receive an insurance card. With this card you will receive the same help as everyone else in Germany.


Are you abroad and have an acute illness? In many countries you will also receive basic care in doctors' surgeries and hospitals. Your health insurance company will give you more information.

You can choose a general practitioner (family doctor). If you need a specialist, you will receive a referral from your family doctor.

 Are you going to hospital? Are you seeing a therapist? Are you seeing a doctor? Then take your insurance card with you.


Insurance card


The insurance card is very important. You can go to the doctor with this card. The health insurance company pays for the doctor's treatment. The card is also your insurance throughout Europe. It is called the "European Health Insurance Card" (EHIC). You can use it to go to the doctor in any EU country.

 Are you travelling to a country outside the EU? Then you should take out additional insurance. Insurance for abroad protects you while travelling. It's called international health

insurance.

Would you like to understand the German healthcare system? You can find information on this [website](#) . This information is available in German and English.

 [Here you will find](#) all the important information about health insurance (read chapter 1). The guide explains the German healthcare system. It is also available in [other languages](#): The "Guide to Health for Asylum Seekers in Germany" and the "Guide to Health for All" are important.

 As a refugee or asylum seeker, you are not yet covered by health insurance. You need a health insurance voucher. You can use this to go to the doctor. You can obtain these licences from the [social welfare office](#).

Statutory health insurance:

This is how statutory health insurance works in Germany:

Membership: Almost everyone in Germany must be in a statutory health insurance scheme. Most people are automatically in a health insurance fund if they work or receive a pension.

Paying contributions: You pay a contribution every month. If you work, the contribution is deducted directly from your salary. If you earn little or have no income, the contribution may be lower.

Benefits: If you fall ill or have to go to the doctor, statutory health insurance covers a large part of the costs. For example, for visits to the doctor, medication or hospitalisation.

Choice of health insurance company: There are many statutory health insurance companies. You can choose one, but all health insurance companies offer the same important benefits.

Family insurance: If you have statutory health insurance, your children and sometimes your partner can also be insured free of charge.

The aim of statutory health insurance is to ensure that everyone has access to medical help, even if they don't have much money.

Private health insurance:

Private health insurance is a different type of insurance that you can choose instead of statutory health insurance. It works a little differently:

Who can join? Not everyone can have private health insurance. Usually only people who earn more or are self-employed. You have to fulfil certain conditions to be eligible for private health insurance.

Contributions: With private health insurance, you pay a fixed premium each month. The amount depends on how old you are and how much you want to be insured for. The older you get, the higher the premium can be.

Benefits: Private health insurance can offer you more benefits than statutory health insurance. For example, you may get better treatment options or quicker appointments with the doctor. But it all depends on how you take out your policy.


Everyone pays for themselves: With private health insurance, you are the only person insured. Your children or partner must be insured separately if they also want to be privately insured.

Private health insurance is for people who can pay more or have certain wishes for their health. But it's important to think carefully about it because the costs can rise over time.


No insurance:


Practice without limits

If you are uninsured, illegal, an EU citizen without health insurance or homeless and uninsured, the Practice without Borders will help you free of charge.

 Every Wednesday 17-18 o'clock

Bettina Stiel-Reifenrath | Praxis ohne Grenzen

 [Wülfingstraße 1, 42897 Remscheid](#)

 [+4921914622922](tel:+4921914622922)

 <https://www.medizinische-hilfe-remscheid.de/#spen...>

Visit to the doctor


General practitioners and specialists

Are you ill? Go to your family doctor. You can choose your own family doctor. The GPs themselves set the opening hours. Do you want your family doctor to help you? Make an appointment.

General practitioners carry out important examinations. They are your first point of contact in the event of illness. They decide on the medication you need. They decide whether a specialist examination is necessary.

If necessary, your GP will refer you to a specialist. They can carry out specialised examinations.

If the practice is closed, the medical on-call service (telephone [116117](tel:116117)) can help.


 You can search for emergency practices [here](#). These are doctors who can also help outside opening hours.

Practice without borders

If you are uninsured, illegal, an EU citizen without health insurance or homeless and uninsured, Praxis ohne Grenzen will help you free of charge.

 Every Wednesday 5-6 pm

Praxis ohne Grenzen

 [Ahrstraße 9, 42697 Solingen](#)

 [+49 \(0\) 15752588203](#)

 <https://www.medizinische-hilfe-remscheid.de/#spen...>

Paediatricians and paediatricians


Paediatricians examine children. There are prescribed examinations for children. These are important for your child's health. They are intended to prevent illnesses in children. Children must also be immunised. Vaccinations are important. They prevent children from getting certain diseases. The prescribed examinations are called "U examinations". They always take place at a certain time. They are free of charge. Please consult a paediatrician for more information.

Dentists and dentists


If you have a toothache, go to a dentist.


Gynaecologists (gynaecologists)

It is important that a gynaecologist examines women regularly. This enables doctors to recognise diseases early enough. This is called a check-up. You can also discuss the topic of contraception there.

 Do you need help finding a suitable doctor? Ask your support group. Alternatively, ask the counsellor at your accommodation.

You can search for doctors in your neighbourhood [here](#).


 Are you looking for asylum? Are you ill? Do you need to see a doctor? Then you will receive a treatment voucher from the [social welfare office](#). This means you can visit the doctor free of charge.

 Do you need an operation? Is it not an emergency? Then the [social welfare office](#) must authorise your stay in hospital. Apply for authorisation before you go to the hospital. Your doctor will issue you with a medical certificate. The social welfare office will only cover medically necessary operations.

Wirtschaftliche Hilfen für Asylbewerber

 [Elberfelderstraße 32/Eingang Ludwigstraße, 42853 Remscheid](#)

 @aufnahme@remscheid.de

 [+4921911600](#)

 <https://www.remscheid.de/vv/produkte/3.33/1463801...>


Medicines and pharmacies

Pharmacies

Do you need medication? Then go to your doctor. They will give you a prescription. You can get your medication with this prescription at any pharmacy. Pharmacies are usually open from Monday to Saturday. The opening hours vary depending on the pharmacy. Do you urgently need medication at night or at the weekend? Every pharmacy has a sign with the name and address of the pharmacy with an emergency service. You can also find this information on the Internet.

Search for pharmacy emergency services

 www.aponet.de

 As an asylum seeker, you will receive many medications without a co-payment. You should therefore ask your doctor about this. If you do not have a prescription, you will always have to pay for the medication.

Medication

There are prescription and over-the-counter medicines.

You can only obtain prescription medication if a doctor issues a prescription. Prescription drugs include, for example, medication for high blood pressure or diabetes and all antibiotics for bacterial infections.

You can obtain over-the-counter medication from the pharmacy without a prescription. This means you do not need to see a doctor beforehand. For example, cold medicines and many painkillers are available without a prescription.

You can also buy prescription-free medication online [docmorris](#) [ShopApotheke](#)

Vaccinations

Vaccination can protect you and your children from many infectious diseases. Contagious means that one person can pass the disease on to another.

You can be vaccinated against several diseases. A vaccination is like a medicine to protect against diseases. Most vaccinations are given by a doctor in the form of an injection. Some diseases require several immunisations - this is the only way to protect against them.

Experts in Germany have drawn up a list. This list shows the most important vaccinations. Here they are:

- Corona virus
- diphtheria
- Hepatitis B
- Hib (Haemophilus influenzae B)
- HPV (human papillomavirus)
- Whooping cough (pertussis)
- measles
- Meningococcus
- mumps
- Pneumococcus
- Polio (infantile paralysis)

- Rotaviruses
- Rubella
- tetanus
- chickenpox

All these vaccinations are normally free of charge. For some people, other immunisations are also important and cost nothing. Some vaccinations must be repeated after a few years. Only a few vaccinations provide protection for longer than ten years. It is best to ask your doctor.

The vaccinations are written in a vaccination record. This is a yellow booklet. You should keep this booklet in a safe place. This allows a doctor to see which immunisations you have had.

All children who go to a daycare centre or school **must** be vaccinated **against** measles. You must be able to show this in your immunisation record. People who work with children or have a medical profession must also be immunised. This is stated in the Measles Protection Act.

Care

Care assistance

If you are in need of care and cannot finance the costs of care (at home or in a retirement home) from your own resources, you are entitled to financial support under certain conditions. This is called care assistance.

💡 You must always follow this sequence when receiving care assistance:

- First, you can get help with care at home, which is outpatient care.
- If this care is not possible, then you can get help with care in an institution where you are only temporarily. This is partial inpatient care, for example day care.
- Only if these two types of care are not possible can you get help with full inpatient care. With this type of care, you always live in the facility, which is then a care facility.

Care at home always comes first!

You can get help with care if you:

- live alone and have no more than 10,000 euros or
- live with another person, for example a spouse, and have no more than 20,000 euros.

You must be in need of care. This is determined by the Medical Service of the Health Insurance Fund (MDK).

You can only receive care assistance if:

- you do not have enough money yourself or
- you do not receive any money from another office or authority, for example from the care insurance fund or the health insurance fund
- you do not receive any money from another person either, for example for your living expenses

If you are not sure whether you will receive care assistance, you can find information here. Click on the link to find the people you can contact: [Care counselling](#)

People with disabilities

Adults with disabilities:

Lebenshilfe Remscheid e. V. has been helping people with disabilities for over 60 years. The organisation is non-profit and offers help and support for people of all ages.

Services include, for example

- the early intervention and counselling centre
- the day care centres
- the residential communities
- Help in your own home
- Work in workshops and in many Remscheid companies

Lebenshilfe Remscheid e.V. | Menschen mit Beeinträchtigung

📍 [Thüringsberg 7 u. 9, 42897 Remscheid](#)

@ info@lebenshilfe-remscheid.de

☎ [+4921919930](tel:+4921919930)

🌐 <https://lebenshilfe-remscheid.de/>

Leisure, culture and sport

Remscheid has a lot to offer: Leisure, culture and sport for all ages. Whether in nature, at exciting events or doing sport - everyone will find something fun to do here.

The website of the city of Remscheid offers a very good overview of everything you need to know.

Helpful tips especially for tourist attractions and ideas for organising your leisure time can be found in the [Tourist-Information](#)

Under the page or the APP [Rausgegangen.de](#) or [Live.de](#) you will find events such as parties, concerts, music and theatre in Remscheid.

Leisure and exchange


Art and music schools

There are several schools in Remscheid that teach music, art, dance and theatre. Here are some of them:


Musik- und Kunstschule Remscheid

The school offers music lessons, art courses as well as dance and theatre courses for children, young people and adults. There are also online courses and special projects tailored to different age groups.


Musik- und Kunstschule

 [Scharffstr. 7-9, 42853 Remscheid](#)

 @musikkunstschule@remscheid.de

 [+49219163007](tel:+49219163007)

 <https://www.mks-remscheid.de/>

 Closed on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10 am - 1 pm, Thursdays 1-6pm and by prior arrangement

Schule für Musik, Tanz und Theater

The school offers music lessons, dance courses and theatre workshops for all age groups. For over 50 years, it has been providing a varied learning experience with a great deal of professionalism and enjoyment.

Jugend Musik und Kunstschule

 [Kölner Str. 2C, 42897 Remscheid](#)

 [+492191661422](tel:+492191661422)


Akademie der Kulturellen Bildung

The academy offers courses and further education in music, art and other cultural subjects. It is an important centre for cultural education in Germany and is aimed at professionals and interested parties. Here you can learn and try out music, art, dance and theatre.

Akademie der kulturellen Bildung

 [Küppelstein 34, 42857 Remscheid](#)

 [@info@kulturellebildung.de](mailto:info@kulturellebildung.de)

 [+4921917940](tel:+4921917940)

 <https://kulturellebildung.de/>

Street art and art gallery

There are many colourful pictures on walls and houses in Remscheid. This is called street art. Some pictures are huge. Others are creative, such as a whale with rubbish in its stomach or columns with knitted shells. You can also discover such art in Lennep. Even Mr Röntgen can be seen as a picture. In 2016, there was a big street art festival in Honsberg. This is already normal in many large cities.

You can find the guide to street art in Remscheid [here](#).

You can also find a list of Remscheid cultural addresses for visual arts, performing arts, digital, media and photos as well as a list of dance schools in Remscheid on the remscheid-tourismus.de website.

You can find the art galleries [here](#).

Nature, hiking and cycle paths

Nature and hiking

Experience nature in and around Remscheid! Walks through forests, hikes along the River Wupper or relaxing breaks at viewpoints provide relaxation. There are many paths that are suitable for all ages.

You can also find an [overview of hiking trails](#) on the Remscheid [Geo-Portal](#) website.

An overview of parks, green spaces, green corridors, play areas and memorials with a brief description can be found on the [TBR-Remscheid](#) page.

There are several reservoirs around Remscheid that can be used for leisure and recreation:

[Eschbachtalsperre](#)

This reservoir is located in Remscheid and is the first drinking water reservoir in Germany. A circular path leads around the reservoir and has been developed into an educational forest trail.

You can walk around the reservoir in about an hour.

You can find a map [here](#).

[Wuppertal Dam](#)

This dam is located near Remscheid and is used for flood protection and water regulation of the Wupper.

It offers opportunities for water sports and recreation.

You can find a map of the Wuppertal Dam [here](#).

[Ronsdorf Dam](#)

This dam is located near Remscheid and is a popular destination for hikes.

A circular route leads around the dam and offers beautiful views of the surrounding countryside.

You can find directions to the Ronsdorf dam [here](#).

Please note that swimming is not permitted at some dams.

You should therefore find out about the relevant regulations before your visit.

Cycle paths

There are many beautiful cycle paths in and around Remscheid for anyone who enjoys cycling. Here are a few tips:

[Balkan route](#)

A 51 kilometre cycle path from Leverkusen to Remscheid. It runs along an old railway line and is ideal for families as it has almost no gradients.

Route of the tool

A cycle path in Remscheid that runs along a former railway line. It is flat and well suited for leisurely cycle tours.

Around Remscheid

A tour that connects sights such as the German Tool Museum, Müngsten Bridge Park and Burg Castle. It offers a mixture of nature and culture.

For more information and tour suggestions you can visit this [link](#).

Please remember to check the current weather conditions and the condition of the paths before your tour.

Ruhr-Topcard

Experience a lot with Ruhrtop Card

There is a lot to discover in the region around Remscheid.
You can visit many great places with Ruhrtop Card.
For example: amusement parks, zoos and museums.
Many offers are even free of charge.

The card is valid for one year.
It is good for individuals and families
who want to spend less money.

You can get the card:

Available at ADAC Remscheid, Bismarckstraße 12, 42853 Remscheid or online
[RUHR.TOPCARD](#)

Culture

Remscheid offers many opportunities to experience art, history and entertainment. There are exciting museums, a great theatre and cosy cinemas.

You can find a list of what's on in Remscheid [here](#).

Discover the culture in Remscheid!

Whether history, art or entertainment - Remscheid has something for everyone.

Museums

There are several interesting museums in Remscheid that you can visit.

Here is a list with brief explanations and links:

Deutsches Röntgen-Museum:

In this museum you can find out how Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen lived and discovered X-rays. There are exhibitions that you can try out and explanations in simple language.

Deutsches Röntgen-Museum

📍 [Schwelmer Str. 41, 42897 Remscheid](#)

✉ [@info@roentgenmuseum.de](mailto:info@roentgenmuseum.de)

☎ [+492191163384](tel:+492191163384)

🌐 <https://roentgenmuseum.de/>

🕒 Tuesdays to Sundays 10:00 - 17:00, closed on Mondays

Tuchmuseum:

Here you can see how fabrics were made in the past. You can see old machines that wove fabrics and how people used to make clothes. The museum is exciting for anyone who wants to learn more about the history of fabric production.

Tuchmuseum Lennep

📍 [Hardtstraße 2, 42897 Remscheid](#)

✉ [@info@tuchmuseum.de](mailto:info@tuchmuseum.de)

☎ [+4921917911688](tel:+4921917911688)

🌐 <https://www.tuchmuseum.de/>

🕒 Tuesdays from 12:00 - 16:00 and Sundays 14:00 - 17:00

You can also visit on Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat. You must book in advance.


Deutsches Werkzeugmuseum:

In this museum you will learn how tools have changed from the Stone Age to the present day. There are exciting workshops and guided tours for the whole family. Right next door is Haus Cleff, an old half-timbered house. Here you can see how people used to live. It is a fine example of traditional building methods in Remscheid.


Deutsches Werkzeugmuseum


📍 [Cleffstr. 2-6, 42855 Remscheid](#)

✉ [@werkzeugmuseum-hiz@remscheid.de](mailto:werkzeugmuseum-hiz@remscheid.de)

 [+492191162519](tel:+492191162519)

 <https://www.werkzeugmuseum.org/index.html>

 Closed on Mondays, Tuesdays to Sundays 10:00 - 17:00

 Parking: In the signposted "Alte Straße" car park on the opposite side of Hastener Str., 2 signposted disabled parking spaces directly next to the tool museum.

Haus Cleff


The Museum Haus Cleff is a special place in Remscheid. It is one of the most beautiful old houses in the Bergisches Land region.

From 12 April 2025, the museum will be showing an exhibition of photographs by Wolfgang Tillmans. The exhibition will run until 4 January 2026.
It can be seen in the beautifully renovated rooms.


Haus Cleff

 [Cleffstr. 2, 42855 Remscheid](#)

 mail@haus-cleff.de

 [+492191780809](tel:+492191780809)

 <https://www.haus-cleff.de/>

 Wednesdays to Sundays 11:00 - 19:00

Steffenshammer:

This is an old hammer mill where you can see how forging was done in the past. There are often demonstrations where you can experience everything in detail.


Steffenshammer

 [Clemenshammer 3, 42855 Remscheid](#)

 lutz-kleuser@steffenshammer.de

 [+4916097795337](tel:+4916097795337)

 <https://steffenshammer.de/>

 From April to October, every 3rd Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., free tours of the hammer mill.

Individual guided tours are possible after contacting D. Orth 0179 / 229 13 12 from April to October (Mon. to Sat.).

Schloss Burg in Solingen

Visit Burg Castle with a guided tour! Burg Castle is situated on a hill with many trees. The castle is old and strongly built
There are: narrow paths, thick walls, large gates, small courtyards and sunny terraces. The Counts of Berg used to live here.
Today you can learn a lot about its history on a guided tour. The castle is a place where the past comes alive.

Schloss Burg

📍 [Schlossplatz 2, 42659 Solingen](#)

✉ [@info@schlossburg.de](mailto:info@schlossburg.de)

☎ [+492122422626](tel:+492122422626)

🌐 <https://www.schlossburg.de/start/>

🕒 Mondays 1-6pm, Tuesdays to Sundays 10am-6pm
Ticket office closes half an hour before closing time.

These museums offer a variety of insights into the history and culture of Remscheid.

Visit the respective websites for current exhibitions.

Theatre

This **Teo-Otto-Theater** is an important place for culture in Remscheid. You can experience many great events here.

What's on at the Teo-Otto-Theatre?

Theatre plays: Stories told by actors on stage.
Ballet: Elegant dance with beautiful music.
Concerts: Music for every taste - from classical to modern.
Musicals: A mixture of theatre, song and dance.
Children's theatre: Exciting and funny plays for the little ones

Tickets and events can be found [here](#).

Teo-Otto-Theater

📍 [Konrad-Adenauer-Str. 31-33, 42853 Remscheid](#)

✉ [@theaterkasse@remscheid.de](mailto:theaterkasse@remscheid.de)

☎ [+492191162650](tel:+492191162650)

🌐 <https://www.teo-otto-theater.de/>

🕒 Monday closed
Tuesday 10:00 - 14:00
Wednesday 10:00 - 14:00 and 15:00 - 18:00
Thursday 10:00 - 14:00

Friday 10:00 - 14:00
Saturday 09:00 - 13:00

Box office
60 minutes before the start of the performance


The **Westdeutsche Tourneetheater (WTT)** brings theatre for young audiences to the stage. Fantasy comes to life here!

What's on at the WTT?


Morning performances for school classes & groups
Workshops on various topics, for example
- "Wonderful world of theatre" (from grade 4) How is theatre created? What professions are there?
- "Reading live" (from year 7) - bringing books to life: reading, acting out & staging scenes
Film theatre for schools

Tickets and events can be found [here](#).


Westdeutsches Tourneetheater Remscheid gGmbH

 [Bismarckstraße 138, 42859 Remscheid](#)

 [@info@schauspiel-remscheid.de](mailto:info@schauspiel-remscheid.de)

 [+49219132285](tel:+49219132285)

 <https://www.schauspiel-remscheid.de/index.php>

 Address for the navigation system (car park):
Gustav-Hermann-Halbach-Str. 1
42859 Remscheid


The **Rotationstheater** in Remscheid Lennep - A unique cultural venue in Remscheid with state-of-the-art technology and an inspiring programme.

What's on at the Rotationstheater?


Theatre, music, dance & performance - high-quality productions for all age groups
Workshops & courses - creative programmes for the local community
A place of encounter & inspiration - Making culture accessible to all

Tickets and events can be found [here](#).

Rotationstheater

 [Kölner Str. 2C, 42897 Remscheid](#)

 [@rotationstheater.rs@t-online.de](mailto:rotationstheater.rs@t-online.de)

 [+492191662977](tel:+492191662977)

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

Haases Papiertheater - A small theatre that performs plays with paper figures. It is unique and offers a special experience for young and old.

Haases Papiertheater

📍 [Ackerstraße 14, 42857 Remscheid](#)

@ kontakt@haases-papiertheater.de

☎ [+49219177287](tel:+49219177287)

🌐 <https://www.haases-papiertheater.de/>

Cinema

There is a modern cinema in Remscheid where you can watch the latest films. It's a great place for a nice evening with family or friends.

What does the cinema offer?

The latest films: From exciting action films to funny comedies and children's films - there's something for everyone.

Large screens: So you can really enjoy the film.

Comfortable seats: For a cosy cinema experience.

Snacks and drinks: Popcorn, nachos, sweets and drinks are available at the bar.

The cinema is a place where you can have fun and immerse yourself in other worlds. Take a look at the [programme](#) and find your favourite film!

The films in the cinema are in German. There are no subtitles.

Cinestar Kino

📍 [Willy-Brandt-Platz 1, 42859 Remscheid](#)

☎ [+492191690470](tel:+492191690470)

🌐 <https://www.cinestar.de/kino-remscheid>

🕒 Every day 15 minutes before the start of the first screening.

💡 Free parking - Presover Str. 20, 42859 Remscheid (opposite the cinema)

Sports programmes

Enjoying exercise is one thing. But sport offers you another opportunity: sport makes it easier to settle into a new environment and socialise. The rules of sport recognise no cultural or national boundaries. People usually understand each other even without a common language. Sport offers a good and informal way of socialising with locals through personal contacts.

What does Remscheid have to offer?

[Kräwi - water fun for everyone](#)

The Kräwi leisure centre on the Wupper dam is ideal for swimming, boating, fishing, diving and picnicking. It is also an ideal starting point for hikes and cycle tours. Admission is free, car parks, toilets and a kiosk are available for a fee.

[Nordic walking park](#)

Remscheid offers a variety of routes for running and Nordic walking fans. There are routes from 3 to 22 kilometres, guided courses and maps for individual tours. You will find route boards at several hotels.

[Illuminated Bachtalrunde](#)

The 2.8 km long jogging and walking route in Lennep Bachtal is floodlit daily from 4 to 9 pm from October to March. Perfect for training in the dark season!

Multi-generational fitness park 50+

Next to the sports pool in the city park, a course with 9 pieces of equipment offers sports opportunities for all age groups. The park is open free of charge all year round. Information boards explain the exercises. [You can find directions here.](#)

There is a Sportbund corner in the Allee Centre in Remscheid .

They will help you with all your questions about sport, exercise and health.

This is what they offer:

Sports programmes for children, young people and adults.

Information on rehabilitation sports and prevention.

Help with inclusive and integrative programmes.

Sports badges.

Advice for sports clubs.

Information on courses for trainers.

The Sportbund corner is in the centre of the city.

It is barrier-free - also easily accessible with a wheelchair.

Open every 1st Saturday of the month:

from 10:00 to 16:00

Sport and clubs

There are many sports clubs in Remscheid.

There you can do football, swimming, dancing, gymnastics and much more.

A club is a good place to stay fit and meet new people.

Especially for new immigrants, this is good for integration.

Many clubs offer favourable membership fees or special offers.

Sportbund Remscheid e.V.

The Remscheid Sports Federation is an association of many sports clubs in Remscheid.

It supports **72 clubs** with over **23,000 members**.

The sports association helps the clubs with questions and problems and works together with the city, schools and daycare centres. The Remscheid Sports Youth is also part of the organisation and looks after children and young people.

The sports association offers training courses for coaches and volunteers and is the point of contact for anyone who wants to take part in sport.

You can find a list of all clubs and [sports](#) in Remscheid on the Sportbund website.

Further information and advice is available at the Allee Centre, open every 1st Saturday of the month:

from 10:00 to 16:00

More information on training times, membership and programmes can be found on the respective club websites.

Registering with a club

How to register yourself or your child with a club

There are many clubs in Remscheid.

A club is a group of people who do something together - for example sports, music, handicrafts or dancing.

If you or your child would like to join a club, there are a few steps to follow:



1. Get information
Ask the club what programmes are on offer. Many clubs have courses for children, teenagers and adults. There are often favourable offers for families with little money.
2. Fill in the registration form
If you would like to take part, you need to fill in a form. This is called a registration form. You write there:
Name and date of birth of you or your child
Address and telephone number
sometimes also whether your child can swim or has allergies
3. Sign and hand in
The form must be signed. Then hand it in to the club - often at the office or to a course instructor.
4. Pay the fee
Many clubs cost a little money. This is called a membership fee. You often pay once a month or once a year.
If you have little money, you can get help - for example with the [education and participation package](#). Ask the organisation or the city.
5. Get started and join in!
Once registration is complete, you can get started!
Your child can then come to the club regularly, play with others, learn or do sport.


Water sports and clubs

There are various swimming pools and places in Remscheid where you can swim and have fun. Here are a few:

[H2O sauna and bathing paradise](#)

There are many pools, a slide and a sauna here. You can swim and relax. There are also massages and beauty treatments.

 Hackenberger Straße 109, 42897 Remscheid
 0 21 91 16 41 42

 Closed on Mondays except public holidays and school holidays

Tuesday 10:00 - 22:00

Wednesday 10:00 - 22:00

Thursday 10:00 - 22:00

Friday 10:00 - 22:00

Saturday 10:00 - 22:00

Sunday 10:00 - 21:00

Public holiday 10:00 - 22:00

[Eschbachtal outdoor pool](#)

An outdoor pool with a swimmer's pool and a non-swimmer's pool. There is also a play area. Ideal for families and children.



You can swim, play and relax in these pools.

Currently closed, updates can be found on the homepage

 [Förderverein Freibad Eschbachtal e.V. - The outdoor pool in Remscheid.](#)

[Sports pool at the Stadtpark](#)

An indoor pool with a sports pool. Here you can swim and take part in swimming courses.

 Schützenplatz 3, 42853 Remscheid
 0 21 91 16 41 61

 Monday 06:30 - 08:00 (6 lanes) and 13:00 - 14:00 (3 lanes)

Tuesday 06:30 - 08:00 (5 lanes)

Wednesday 06:30 - 08:00 (6 lanes) and 13:00 - 14:00 (2 lanes)

Thursday 06:30 - 08:00 (5 lanes)

Friday 06:30 - 08:00 (6 lanes)

Saturday 14:00 - 15:00 (6 lanes)

Sunday closed

[Kräwi - water fun for everyone](#)

The Kräwi leisure centre at the Wupper dam is ideal for swimming, boating, fishing, diving and picnicking. It is also an ideal starting point for hikes and cycle tours. Entry is free, car parking, toilets and a kiosk are available for a fee.

Visit the websites for more information and prices.

If you are looking for a suitable **club for your sport** , you are sure to find the right one in the Sportbund's overview.

Sportbund Remscheid e.V.

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The sports association helps the clubs with questions and problems and works together with the city, schools and daycare centres. The Remscheid Sports Youth is also part of the organisation and looks after children and young people.

The sports association offers training courses for coaches and volunteers and is the point of contact for anyone who wants to take part in sport.

You can find a list of all clubs and sports as well as [water sports](#) in Remscheid on the Sportbund website.

Further information and advice is available at the Allee Centre, open every 1st Saturday of the month:
from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.
More information on training times, membership and programmes can be found on the respective websites.

Offers for senior citizens

In 2020, around 18.3 million people over the age of 65 lived in Germany. And this number is growing every year. They now make up more than 22% of the total population. Older people often need care or help in the home. The older people are, the more likely they are to need help. Some also live alone. This sometimes means that their social contacts become fewer. Social contacts are important for mental health.

Here you can find offers for senior citizens in Remscheid.

Senior centres in Remscheid

Senior centre Stadtpark, Carl-Hessenbruch-Weg 1, 42853 Remscheid, Tel. 7 39 49

South Senior Citizens' Meeting Centre, Jan-Wellem-Straße 29a, 42859 Remscheid, Tel. 3 84 95

Senior centre Reinshagen, Hagedornweg, 42857 Remscheid, Tel. 79 19 38

Senior centre Hardtpark, Wupperstraße 1, 42897 Remscheid, Tel. 66 11 31

Klausen senior citizens' centre, Karl-Arnold-Straße 6 - 8, 42899 Remscheid, tel. 5 56 34

Counselling and meeting centres:

OT Wiedenhof, Brüderstr. 4, 42853 Remscheid, Tel. 49 77 00

Senior centre Mollplatz, AWO, Mollplatz 3, 42897 Remscheid, Tel. 66 26 26

Senior centre Hasenberg, Hasenberger Weg 13/17, 42897 Remscheid, Tel. 660714

Rosenhügel neighbourhood office, Stephanstraße 2, 42859 Remscheid Tel: 4601442

"Die Esche", Evangelische Johannes-Kirche, Eschenstr. 25, 42855 Remscheid, Tel.: 02191/34 01 92

Eduard-Krenzer-Treff, Hastener Altenhilfe, Scharnhorststraße 11, 42855 Remscheid, Tel.: 88 91 06

"The UHU's" CVJM Remscheid

The UHU's meet every last Wednesday of the month at 18:30 in Café Dreieck (Blumenstraße 25) to discuss interesting topics, eat and enjoy fellowship together. Everyone is cordially invited - more information is available from the YMCA office on 02191/21414 or [here](#).

or

In the **Bible study**, participants meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm to better understand the Bible together and to share ideas. New visitors are very welcome! - [More information is available via the contact form on the YMCA website](#).

Activities

There are other activities you can do in Remscheid, here are a few examples

Bergisch Land falconry

The falconry Bergisch Land is a place with birds of prey, for example: Falcons, owls, buzzards and eagles.

Here you can see the birds up close.

You will learn how the animals live and how to work with them.

The falconers show you how the birds fly and hunt.

They explain a lot about nature and animal welfare.

The falconry is a great place for children, families and groups.

Schools can also book guided tours.

The falconry is located in Remscheid - in the centre of Bergisches Land.

You can find more information on the website: <https://www.falknerei-bergischland.de/>

Minigolf course

Mini golf on the Müngstener Brückenweg

There is a minigolf course in Solingen.

It is located on Müngstener Brückenweg - near the large Müngsten bridge.

Children and adults can play minigolf together here.

Minigolf is a game with a club and a ball.

The aim is to get the ball into the hole with just a few strokes.

The course is surrounded by nature - a beautiful place to play and relax.

There are various courses that are fun to play.

Picnics or a short walk are also possible.

Perfect for a day out with family or friends!

[Get an overview here.](#)

Skating facilities in Remscheid

There are two outdoor skate parks and one indoor skate park in Remscheid.

Reinshagen skate park

This facility is located on Wallburgstraße, near the Reinshagen stadium and Halle West.

The surface is tarmac. There are various ramps and obstacles for skating:

- small ramps for jumping
- Ramps with edges for sliding
- Stairs with a sloping surface
- Concrete tables that you can skate over

Lennebach skate park

This skate park is located in Bachtal on Rader Straße.

The area is 25 metres long and 14 metres wide.

There are

- a quarter pipe (round ramp)
- a funbox (obstacle with edges and ramps)
- a spine ramp (two ramps with a peak in the centre)

Skating hall with funbox

There is a large funbox in the skater hall.

Here you can ride your skateboard, inline skates or BMX bike - even when it's raining outside.

Schools can hire the hall and organise different sports lessons.

Libraries

In a library or bookshop you can borrow books, CDs, learning materials and learning aids to take home. You will need a library card for this. You can get this from your local library. It is also possible to study or read there in peace and quiet.

Find out more on site:

Please note that our libraries are closed on Mondays.

Zentralbibliothek

📍 [Scharffstraße 4-6, 42853 Remscheid](#)

✉ [@bibliothek@remscheid.de](mailto:bibliothek@remscheid.de)

☎ [+492191162637](tel:+492191162637)

📅 Tuesday: 10.00 a.m. - 7.00 p.m.
 Wednesday: 10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.
 Thursday: 10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.
 Friday: 10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.
 Saturday: 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

Stadtteilbibliothek Lennep

📍 [Berliner Straße 9, 42897 Remscheid](#)

✉ @biblen@remscheid.de

☎ [+4921912097012](tel:+4921912097012)

📅 Tuesday 14:00 to 19:00,
 Wednesday 14:00 to 17:00,
 Thursday, Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.,
 Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Stadtteilbibliothek Lüttringhausen

📍 [Gertenbachstraße 22, 42899 Remscheid](#)

✉ @bibblue@remscheid.de

☎ [+492191162354](tel:+492191162354)

📅 Tuesday 14:00 to 19:00,
 Wednesday 14:00 to 17:00,
 Thursday, Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.,
 Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Persons aged 16 and over must pay a monthly or annual fee to borrow media. Children and young people under the age of 16 can borrow media free of charge.

Here you can find the [prices and further information](#)

Religious practice

There are many religions in Germany. Many people follow a particular religion. They meet in churches, mosques or synagogues. There they pray and celebrate services.

Many people feel comfortable in a community. They can exchange ideas in groups or meetings. Information on this can be found on the parish websites. You can call them or simply drop by.

There is **freedom of religion** in Germany.

This means that everyone can decide for themselves what they believe in. Everyone is allowed to live their religion.

That means

You are allowed to pray and celebrate festivals.

You are allowed to go to church, mosque or synagogue.

You are allowed to wear religious clothing.
 No one may be forced to have or give up a religion.
 You can believe in a god or not.
 All people are equal, regardless of their religion.
 That is an important right in Germany.

Internet:

- Remscheid YMCA: www.cvim-remscheid.de
- Protestant Church in Germany: www.ekd.de
- Catholic Church in Germany: www.katholisch.de
- Orthodox Church in Germany: <https://www.orthodoxie-in-deutschland.de/>
- Central Council of Jews in Germany: www.zentralratjuden.de
- Turkish-Islamic Union of the Institute for Religion e.V. (DITIB): www.ditib.de
- Association of Islamic Cultural Centres (VIKZ): www.vikz.de
- Alevi Community Germany e.V. (AABF): www.alevi.com
- Central Council of Muslims in Germany (ZMD): www.zentralrat.de
- German Islam Conference (DIK): www.deutsche-islam-konferenz.de

If you cannot find what you are looking for on the Internet, you are welcome to contact the municipal integration management by e-mail, where your questions will be answered

kim@remscheid.de

Or:

- [Migration counselling for adult immigrants \(MBE\)](#)
- Churches and religious communities

Calendar of events

There is always something to experience in Remscheid! For example:

Festivals in the city

concerts
 sporting events
 CSD (Christopher Street Day)
 World Children's Day
 House in the park (music and dancing)
 Food festivals (delicious food)
 Circus performances

Take a look at the Remscheid-Tourismus page in the [events calendar](#) to see what's going on.
 You're sure to find something you enjoy!

Volunteering

Volunteer work

Findingsupport

There are groups in all neighbourhoods in Remscheid that are committed to helping **migrants and refugees**. The volunteers help migrants to find their way around their neighbourhood. They provide support with questions about everyday life. For example, if a letter is not understood in German. Many volunteer groups also offer support with learning German. They do this voluntarily and without money. All volunteers decide for themselves how much time they want to spend on this work. They help because they want to do something good for other people. They do this after work, in the evening or at the weekend, for example.

If you need help, you can also turn to volunteers. For example, they can help you

- learning German
- understanding letters and forms
- with visits to the doctor or authorities
- finding accommodation
- getting to know other people
- in leisure groups for children and families

Get involved as a volunteer

Would you like to volunteer? Then you can use the [Mitwirk-O-Mat](#) to find out which organisations suit you. If you have any further questions about voluntary work, please contact the city:

Vanessa Hultsch

📍 [Theodor-Heuss-Platz 1, 42853 Remscheid](#)

✉ @ehrenamt@remscheid.de

☎ [+492191162902](tel:+492191162902)

🌐 <https://www.remscheid.de/menschen-soziales/ehrena...>

Below you will find a selection of organisations that you can contact if you are interested in volunteering and that offer support at the same time:

Aventura - Nachhilfe und Integration

📍 [Schützenstraße 74, 42853 Remscheid](#)

✉ @info@aventura-nachhilfe.de

☎ [+4917645230438](tel:+4917645230438)

🌐 <https://aventura-nachhilfe.de/>


Senf e.V.

 [Neugasse 2, 42897 Remscheid](#)


 [@info@senf-remscheid.de](mailto:info@senf-remscheid.de)

 <https://www.senf-remscheid.de/>

Stadtteil e.V.


 [Honsberger Str. 38, 42857 Remscheid](#)

 [@info@der-neue-lindenhof.de](mailto:info@der-neue-lindenhof.de)


 [+49219193800](tel:+49219193800)

 <https://der-neue-lindenhof.de/>

IKE-Förderverein für Interkulturelle Erziehung e.V.

 [Blumenstr. 24, 42853 Remscheid](#)

 [@ike-rs@t-online.de](mailto:ike-rs@t-online.de)

 [+492191162871](tel:+492191162871)

 <https://ike-rs.de/>

Translate on a voluntary basis

Help with translating - language mediators in Remscheid

Many people who come to Remscheid for the first time speak other languages. These languages can help with translation.


The city of Remscheid is always looking for people who speak other languages well. These people help others who do not yet speak German well.

For example, they translate during conversations in:


Schools and kindergartens,
offices and other public offices
or in counselling centres where help is available.
This makes it easier for everyone to understand the important information.

Your contact person:

Jeanne Richter | Laien-Sprachmittlerpool

 [Blumenstr. 24, 42853 Remscheid](#)

 [@jeanne.richter@remscheid.de](mailto:jeanne.richter@remscheid.de)

 [+49 \(0\) 2191162983](tel:+49(0)2191162983)

Migrant organisations

Migrant organisations are associations that help people who have recently arrived in Remscheid. Many of the members of these organisations come from abroad themselves.

They provide important information, help with problems and organise joint meetings.

There are many such organisations in Remscheid. They help, for example, with

- Questions about work or a flat,
- Support with learning German,
- counselling when problems arise,
- leisure and cultural activities.

Below you will find a list of migrant organisations in Remscheid.

Remscheid migrant organisation:

Human- sufi culture & arts e.V.

📍 [Ehringhausen 25, 42859 Remscheid](#)

@ info@human-culture.com

☎ [+4915775556666](tel:+4915775556666)

🌐 <https://human-culture.com/de/>

Bundesverband spanischer sozialer und kultureller Vereine e.V.

📍 [Hindenburgstr. 1, 42853 Remscheid](#)

@ cfma@iree.org

☎ [+492191421531](tel:+492191421531)

🌐 <https://iree.org/>

Alevitische Gemeinde Remscheid e.V.

📍 [Lenneper Straße 1, 42855 Remscheid](#)

@ alevitische-gemeinde.rs@outlook.de

☎ [+49219174900](tel:+49219174900)

🌐 <http://www.alevi-remscheid.de>

Freundschaftsverein Kirsehir- Remscheid e.V.

📍 [Geschwister-Scholl-Straße 1a, 42897 Remscheid](#)

✉ @stefaniebluth@yahoo.de

Buhara Kultur Zentrum Remscheid e.V.

📍 [Waldstraße 10, 42853 Remscheid](#)

☎ [+49219128210](tel:+49219128210)

Deutsch-Italienische Gesellschaft Remscheid e.V.

📍 [Halskestraße 30, 42857 Remscheid](#)

✉ @info@dig-remscheid.de

☎ [+4917643160247](tel:+4917643160247)

🌐 <http://www.dig-remscheid.de>

Kocatepe Camii Deutsch-Türkischer Jugend-Bildungsverein

📍 [Klausen 20a, 42899 Remscheid](#)

✉ @Dtjbv-remscheid@gmx.de

Eritrean Community in Remscheid e.V.

📍 [Mollplatz 3, 42897 Remscheid](#)

✉ @mirudave12@gmail.com

🌐 <http://www.eritreancommunity-inremscheid.com/>

IGMG Ortsverein Remscheid-Neuenkamp Milli Görüs

📍 [Neuenkamper Straße 25b, 42855 Remscheid](#)

Islamisch-Marokkanische Gemeinschaft e.V.

📍 [Bismarckstraße 119, 42859 Remscheid](#)

La Guinée Unie e.V.

📍 [Mollplatz 3, 42897 Remscheid](#)

@ balde@sadjo.org

☎ [+4915218661021](tel:+4915218661021)

Türkischer Kulturverein Remscheid e.V. (ATIB)

📍 [Industriestraße 25b, 42859 Remscheid](#)

@ atib-remscheid@web.de

☎ [+492191385491](tel:+492191385491)

Sozialer Solidaritätsverein Remscheid

📍 [Richtweg 2, 42853 Remscheid](#)

☎ [+49219141652](tel:+49219141652)

Türkisch-Deutscher Dialog und Sport e.V.

📍 [Industriestraße 4, 42859 Remscheid](#)

☎ [+492191344904](tel:+492191344904)

Türkisch-Islamische Gemeinde zu Remscheid e.V. (DITIB)

📍 [Stachelhauserstraße 41, 42859 Remscheid](#)

@ info@ditib-rs.de

☎ [+49219125605](tel:+49219125605)

Sports clubs

There are many sports clubs in Remscheid where you can become a member. You can find more information about the clubs [here](#).

Religious organisations

There are many religious organisations in Remscheid and the surrounding area. These associations organise parties, meetings or help people who need support, for example. You can find a list of these organisations [here](#).