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EU Blue Card

If you have a university degree, a comparable level of education or an IT profession, you can obtain an EU Blue Card to work in Germany. Depending on the case, a certain minimum salary is mandatory.

The EU Blue Card has several advantages compared with a residence permit for the purpose of employment. For example, it enables you to obtain the right of permanent residence more quickly.

- The EU Blue Card is valid for a maximum of 4 years.
- If you have a fixed-term employment contract, the EU Blue Card can also be valid for a shorter time. Normally it also lasts 3 months longer than your employment contract.
- An EU Blue Card is issued for the commencement of a specific job. After one year of employment at this job, any employment is allowed without the need to inform the immigration authorities or to change the EU Blue Card.

Procedure:

1. Carry out the online application.

- Please have all the necessary documents ready for this in PDF format if possible. However, you can also still photograph and upload the documents during the application process using your smartphone or tablet. The following file formats are accepted: PDF, JPG, JPEG, and PNG. The total size of your files must not exceed 100 MB. A single file must be a maximum of 7 MB in size.
- Before you can send off the application, you need to pay the service fee.
- At the end you will receive a PDF document to confirm your application. This document will certify that your current residence title (national D visa or residence permit) remains valid in the federal territory beyond the previous validity date. (This does not apply if you hold a Schengen visa (C visa) for a short-term stay or if your current residence title has already expired on the day of application.)
- Please therefore make sure to save this document and print a copy if possible.
- **Note:** Do your spouse and child live with you in Berlin and need a residence permit? Then please do not submit a separate application. Simply enter your family members in the spaces provided in the online application. The Berlin Immigration Office will contact you regarding residence permits for your family members.

2. Once you have carried out the online application, we will check it and then contact you as soon as possible. Where necessary, we will request further documents.

3. If your application is considered to be successful, you will be given an appointment for an in-person interview. Please bring the originals of all the necessary documents with you to this appointment.

Prerequisites

- **Legal residence**

- You are already residing in Germany with an EU Blue Card or another residence title (e.g., a national D visa or residence permit). Or, based on your nationality, you are entitled to apply for an EU Blue Card after visa-free entry.
- Applications for an EU Blue Card extension can be submitted no earlier than four months before its expiration date.

- **University degree**

- You have a degree from a German university or
- a degree from a foreign university which is recognised in Germany, or
- a different degree from a foreign university which is comparable to a German degree.

You can check the “anabin” database to see whether your foreign degree is recognised. You will find a link to this database in the “More information” section.

If your degree is not evaluated in this database, you can have a certificate assessment carried out specially for your degree. This will incur additional costs. You can find more about certificate assessment in the “More information” section.

- **or equivalent education through tertiary education programme**

- It is also sufficient to have successfully completed a tertiary education programme that is equivalent to completion of a university degree.
- The requisite duration of the tertiary education programme is at least three years.
- The equivalence of the qualification must have been established by the competent German authority. To find out more, visit the Federal Ministry of Education's information portal regarding "Recognition in Germany" (see the section "More information").

- **or employment in the field of information and communication technology**

- An academic or comparable education is not required for managers and specialists in the field of information and communication technology.
- Occupations are favoured if they are from group 133 or 25 of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-08) (see list of shortage occupations in the “More information” section).
- The skills, knowledge and abilities required for this profession must have been acquired in at least three years of professional experience in the last seven years.

- **Employment**

You already have an employment contract or a concrete offer. The employment relationship must have a minimum duration of 6 months.

- **Employment in Germany**

An employment relationship in Germany must be established. In addition, the employer must have a place of business in Germany.

- **Minimum salary**

You can only acquire the EU Blue Card if you earn enough. How much you need to earn depends on your profession and when you completed your qualifications. The minimum salary limits change every calendar year. The following applies to 2026:

- If you work in a shortage occupation, you need to earn EUR 3,827.85 gross per month or more. This equates to EUR 45,934.20 per year.

Shortage occupations are specific occupations for which there are not enough workers in Germany. These professions at present are such as: Scientists in natural science disciplines, mathematicians, architects, interior, urban and traffic planners, designers, engineers, scientific engineers, physicians, those with qualifications in information and communications technology. In the section "More information" you will find a complete list of the shortage occupations for which an EU Blue Card can be issued.

- This minimum salary is also valid (regardless of profession) if the university degree or equivalent tertiary education programme was successfully completed no more than three years before applying for the EU Blue Card.
- You do not work in a shortage occupation or completed your qualifications more than three years ago? Then you must earn EUR 4,225.00 gross per month or more. This equates to EUR 50,700.00 per year.
- Success bonuses and other fully variable special payments are not taken into account.

- **Possibly: Approval of the German Federal Employment Agency (Bundesagentur für Arbeit)**

You will require the approval of the Federal Employment Agency if you earn less than EUR 4,225.00 gross per month (value for 2026).

- **Depending on the profession: Occupation practice permit**

For some jobs you need a special permit, for example for human medicine. If you do not know whether you need this special permit, please ask your employer.

- **Adequate health insurance**

(https://www.berlin.de/einwanderung/_assets/merkblatt_zur_krankenversicherung_englisch_.pdf)

You have health insurance in Germany, either in the statutory health insurance system or a comparable private health insurance.

Foreign health insurance is not sufficient. For more information, please read the leaflet.

- **No indications of a threat to public safety or order**

- Fines alone can prevent the granting of an EU Blue Card.
- An application for an EU Blue Card may not be processed while investigation proceedings are ongoing.
- You pose no threat to the free democratic basic order or the security of the Federal Republic of Germany.
- You are not involved in acts of violence in pursuit of political or religious goals, do not publicly call for the use of violence and do not threaten to do so.

- **Main residence in Berlin**

You live in Berlin. A second residence in Berlin is not sufficient.

- **Current email address**

The Berlin Immigration Office will contact you via your current email address. Please also check your spam folder regularly.

- **For the online application: Consent to the electronic payment process**

The following methods of payment are available to you:

- Credit card (Visa, Mastercard)

- Paypal

Documents required

- **Application for an EU Blue Card**

- only possible online
- You will receive a PDF document to confirm your application. This document will certify that your current residence title remains valid in the federal territory beyond the previous validity date. (This does not apply if you hold a Schengen visa (C visa) for a short-term stay or if your current residence title has already expired on the day you apply.)
- Please therefore make sure to save this document and print a copy if possible.

- **In the case of an application being filed by an authorised representative: power of attorney stating the subject matter of the procedure**

- **If you already have an EU Blue Card or another residence title for the Federal Republic of Germany: Copy of your residence title**

- **Passport copies (in color)**

Copies of the following pages of your passport are required:

- Always: Data pages (with your photo and personal details)
- If you have entered the country and are applying for an EU Blue Card for the first time, additionally: Entry stamp and visa for entry or residence permit from another EU country in your passport (if applicable)

- **Your employment contract or job offer**

- **University or university college qualification**

- **Proof of your residence**

for example by

- Certificate of registration at the main residence (Melde-Bestätigung) or
- lease and written confirmation of occupancy from the landlord (Wohnungsgeber-Bestätigung)

- **Proof of the size and cost of the living space**

The floor space and the monthly rent or housing costs of your own property (house or apartment) must be demonstrated as follows.

In the case of a rental property:

- Tenancy agreement (without house rules or other annexes) and
- Proof of the current monthly costs (rent with utility costs included – “Warmmiete”), e.g. bank statements

In the case of an owned property:

- extract from the land register, third section,
- costs of the home-owner charges and
- possible monthly loan costs for the property

- **Proof of your health insurance**

- If you have statutory health insurance: electronic health card (copy front and back) or a current confirmation from the health insurance company
- In the case of private health insurance: certificate from the insurer regarding the scope and costs of the insurance in accordance with § 257 Para. 2a SGB V. V. Please point out to your insurer that you need the certificate for a residence permit for gainful employment.

- **Form "Erklärung zum Beschäftigungsverhältnis" (filled out and signed by your employer)**
- **If necessary: Occupation practice permit**
- **If necessary: Zeugnisbewertung**
(<https://zab.kmk.org/en/statement-comparability>)
If your foreign degree is not evaluated in the "anabin" database, please submit a certificate assessment to the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB).
- **If you do not have a university degree: curriculum vitae and other diplomas and certificates**
- **In the case of qualifications obtained through tertiary education programme: certificate of equivalence with an university degree**
If possible, please upload the document during the online application process. Otherwise, you will need to submit it later during the processing.
- **For the extension of an EU Blue Card: Proof of current employment**
 - Employer confirmation of the duration of the ongoing employment relationship (not older than 14 days).
 - Salary slips for the first two and last two months

Forms

- **Erklärung zum Beschäftigungsverhältnis (job description)**
(https://www.berlin.de/einwanderung/_assets/stellenbeschreibung.pdf?ts=1752710435)

Fees

The fee must be paid before you send off the online application (by credit card or PayPal).

- 56.00 euros: for the initial issue of the EU Blue Card as a sticker label
- 49.00 euros: for the renewal of the EU Blue Card as a sticker label
- 100.00 euros: for the initial issue of the EU Blue Card as an electronic residence permit (eAT)
- 93.00 euros: for the renewal of the EU Blue Card as an electronic residence permit (eAT)
- 22.80 euros: for Turkish nationals up to the age of 24 for the initial issue / for renewal
- 37.00 euros: for Turkish nationals aged 24 and over for the initial issue / for renewal
- 6.00 euros extra: for creating a digital passport photo at the self-service terminal on site

A refund is not possible in the event that the application is withdrawn if we have already begun to process the application (by examining the documents you sent or sending you an appointment for an in-person interview).

Legal basis

- **Section 18g Aufenthaltsgesetz - AufenthG**
(https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_aufenthg/englisch_aufenthg.html#p0495)

Average time to process request

- You will receive an appointment if your application is reviewed positively.
- An EU Blue Card in the form of a sticker label can be issued directly on site during the appointment.
- If issued as an electronic residence permit (eAT), it takes 4 to 6 weeks before it can be collected.

More information

- **Information of the Berlin Immigration Office about the EU Blue Card**
(<https://www.berlin.de/einwanderung/aufenthalt/erwerbstaetigkeit/artikel.874035.php#BKEU>)
- **List of shortage occupations (information provided by the Federal Government's portal for international skilled workers)**
(<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/pdf-engpassberufe-en>)
- **Information portal of the German government for the recognition of foreign professional qualifications**
(<https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/en/index.php>)
- **Online database "anabin" by the Central Office for Foreign Education Affairs**
(<https://anabin.kmk.org/anabin.html>)
- **Certificate evaluation for foreign university qualifications**
(<https://zab.kmk.org/en/statement-comparability>)
- **Certificate of registration at the main residence (Melde-Bestätigung)**
(https://service.berlin.de/dienstleistung/120686/de_plain/)
- **Example: confirmation of occupancy from the landlord (Wohnungsgeber-Bestätigung)**
(http://www.berlin.de/formularverzeichnis?formular=/labo/zentrale-einwohnerangelegenheiten/_assets/mdb-f402544-20161102_wohnungsgeberbestaetigung.pdf)

Average time to process request

https://liste-antraege-bc01.bda.service.berlin.de/intelliform/forms/default/bda/LEA/Befristeter_Aufenthaltstitel_zur_Beschaeftigung/index?parameter=324659

Notes on responsibility

This service can only be taken advantage of in the Berlin Immigration Office (Landesamt für Einwanderung – LEA) at Keplerstrasse.