

Residence permit for employment and self-employment

You would like to enter into an employment relationship in Germany, i.e. take up employment or become self-employed here and have not lived in Germany up to now. You can find the most important information here:

Competent Department

- [Aufenthalt](#)
- [Migrationsamt](#)
- [bsu - bremen_service universität](#)

Basic information

The immigration of foreigners to Germany in order to work here, i.e. to take up employment or become self-employed here, is only permitted if you have previously successfully applied for a visa for employment or self-employment at the German mission abroad in your country of origin (see under "i Where can I find out more?").

If you enter Germany to look for employment or to start a business without the required visa, you will have to leave the country again in order to apply for a visa in your country of origin.

These regulations do not apply to nationals of EU member states, Liechtenstein, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland. They can come to Germany for employment or self-employment without first applying for a visa.

Exemptions also exist for the following countries:

Australia, Israel, Japan, Canada, New Zealand, USA, Republic of Korea.

Nationals of these countries can apply for a residence permit for the purpose of employment or self-employment in Germany.

The employment or business must secure your livelihood in Germany.

Visas for employment or self-employment in Germany are only issued for certain professions or economic sectors.

The description of the requirements for employment or self-employment in Germany is not exhaustive. Information on applying for and obtaining visas for employment can be obtained from the German missions abroad in your country of origin, which will decide on your application (see "i Where can I find out more?").

The Migration Office is not involved in the visa procedure and therefore cannot provide any information on the procedure!

What documents do I need?

- completed application form
- 1 biometric passport photo (not older than 3 months)

According to Bundesdruckerei's photo sample board: <https://www.bundesdruckerei.de>

- valid passport
- Health insurance certificate
- University certificate
 - If you are in possession of a residence permit to study (§16b AufenthG) or
 - are employees* of a Bremen university or its scientific institutions
- Employment contract
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 - are employees* of a Bremen university or its scientific institutions

Procedure

The immigration of foreigners to Germany in order to work here, i.e. to take up employment or to set up a business, is only permitted if you have previously successfully applied for a visa for employment or self-employment at the German mission abroad in your country of origin (exceptions: please see under Basic Information).

If you enter Germany for the purpose of seeking employment or starting a business without the required visa, you will have to leave the country again in order to apply for a visa in your country of origin.

Information on the visa procedure can be found on the website of the Federal Foreign Office (see "i Where can I find out more?") and at the German missions abroad themselves.

If you entered Germany with the required visa for employment or self-employment or were exceptionally allowed to enter Germany without a visa because you are a national of a certain country (see under Basic Information), please fill out the form "Vordruck Terminvergabe Einreise" (see under Forms) and send it by e-mail to <mailto:ref11@migrationsamt.bremen.de>. You will then receive a prompt appointment.

You will then receive a prompt appointment for the issue of your residence permit.

If you are in possession of a residence permit for studying (§16b AufenthG), have successfully completed your studies in Bremen and are applying for a residence permit for employment for the first time, please book an appointment at bremen_service universität via the link below:

mailto:auslaenderbehoerde-bsu@migrationsamt.bremen.de

Legal bases

- [Aufenthaltsgesetz \(AufenthG\)](#)

What deadlines must be paid attention to?

The issuance of the residence permit after entry with the required visa must be applied for at the Migration Office within the validity of the existing national visa or, in the case of possible visa-free entry, within 90 days.

What are the costs?

The competent German mission in the country of origin will provide information on costs and deadlines / duration of the procedure for issuing visas.

Fees of up to 110.00 may be charged for the issuance of the residence permit.