



Overview of the Requirements for Residence Permits for the Purposes of Vocational Training, Study and Work

This overview is not exhaustive. Please use the links and inform yourself about the services on our homepage.

Residence Permit	Length of Stay Permitted	German Skills Required	Secured Cost of Living Required	Additional Gainful Employment Allowed	Further Requirements
Residence permit for participation in voluntary service	Up to 18 months, in exceptional cases 24 months	No	Yes, possible through pocket money or benefits in kind	No	Participation agreement
Residence permit for participation in an intensive German language course	Up to 12 months	No	Yes, possible through a blocked account, a declaration of commitment (Verpflichtungserklärung), a scholarship or parental income	No	Agreement with a language school
Residence permit to prepare for studies	Up to 2 years	No	Yes, possible through a blocked account, a declaration of commitment (Verpflichtungserklärung), a scholarship or parental income	Employment for up to 120 full or 240 half days per year	Agreement with a language school or admission to a preparatory course (Studienkolleg)
Residence permit to search for a place to study	Up to 9 months	No	Yes, possible through a blocked account, a declaration of commitment (Verpflichtungserklärung), a scholarship or parental income	No	High school diploma



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Residence permit to study	Duration of studies	No	Yes, possible through a blocked account, a declaration of commitment (Verpflichtungserklärung), a scholarship or parental income	Employment for up to 120 full or 240 half days per year	University entrance qualifications and admission to a college or university
Residence permit for a study-related EU internship	Up to 6 months	No	Yes, possible through internship compensation	No	Internship agreement
Residence permit for research	Duration of the research	No	Yes, possible through declaration of financial responsibility or salary	Employment at the research institution	Hosting agreement or contract to conduct research
Residence permit for academics	Duration of the academic activity	No	Yes, possible through salary	Employment at the academic/research institution	Doctoral degree/university diploma and employment contract with academic/research institution
Residence permit for doctoral studies	Up to 5 years	No	Yes, possible through compensation/salary, a blocked account, a declaration of commitment (Verpflichtungserklärung), a scholarship or parental income	Employment at the academic institution	University degree and proof of doctoral studies
Residence permit for employment as a skilled worker or EU Blue Card	Up to 4 years/ duration of employment	Only for regulated professions	Yes, possible through salary	No	Qualification and employment contract
Residence permit for employment as an au pair	Up to 1 year	Basic knowledge	Yes, possible through host family	No	Au pair contract with host family



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Residence permit for vocational training	Duration of vocational training	B1	Yes, possible through vocational training salary, a blocked account, a declaration of commitment (Verpflichtungserklärung), a scholarship or parental income	Employment for up to 10 hours per week	Vocational training agreement
Residence permit for steps toward recognition of foreign professional qualifications	Up to 2 years for non-regulated professions, 3 years for regulated professions	A2 or job-related level	Yes, possible through salary, a blocked account or a declaration of commitment (Verpflichtungserklärung)	Employment for up to 10 hours per week	Partial recognition of professional qualifications and registration for qualification training
Residence permit to search for vocational training	Up to 6 months	B2	Yes, possible through a blocked account, a declaration of commitment (Verpflichtungserklärung), a scholarship or parental income	No	Under the age of 25