



June 2025

Opportunity card

If you intend to work in Germany based on a foreign university diploma or vocational training but you do not have a work contract yet, you can apply for an opportunity card in order to search for a job or trainings necessary to recognize your foreign qualifications in Germany. An opportunity card can be issued for up to one year and might be prolonged in Germany. The opportunity card allows its holder to work part-time (up to 20 hrs/ week) as well as trial work. However, this may not be main purpose of the stay.

You are eligible for an opportunity card, if you can prove sufficient financial means including health insurance and if:

- you have a foreign academic or non-academic vocational qualification fully recognized in Germany (according to the database ANABIN or by single comparability statement) *or*
- you score at least 6 points in the points system based on language skills, professional qualifications, age and previous stays in Germany.

Please note that your visa application must be made in person and will be accepted only if all required documents are submitted according to our regulations.

Documents in foreign languages have to be provided with a certified translation into German or English.

Additional information about opportunity card can be found here: <https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/visa-residence/types/job-search-opportunity-card>

The fee for processing the visa application is € 75,00. This amount has to be paid in cash or per credit card. This is a processing fee. Thus, a refund in case of withdrawal of the application or up-on denial is not possible.

Required documents:

- 1 filled-in and signed **visa application form**:
<https://videx-national.diplo.de/videx/visum-erfassung/#/videx-langfristiger-aufenthalt>
- 1 recent **passport photo** (45x35 mm)
- **your national passport** (validity of which has to exceed at least 6 months; issued not earlier than 10 years ago), + copies of **all pages with records**

- your **Estonian residence permit or visa**, held for at least 3 months at the time of application and for additional 2 months after your entry to Germany
- your **current resident registration certificate** from Estonian population register
- **proof of sufficient financial means** in the amount of **1,091€/ month**:
Blocked account: please open the blocked account in good time before you apply for a visa. When applying for a visa, only the official confirmation of the opening of the account issued by the bank, including information on the amount paid in and the amount available per month, will be accepted;
or
Declaration of commitment: pursuant to Sections 66 and 68 Residence Act to the German aliens' authority in which a third person undertakes to cover all costs (original document)
- your **Curriculum Vitae** indicating your professional experience to date
- **cover letter**: this should outline what fields and jobs you are interested in in Germany, where you want to apply and where you want to live in Germany (including details of accommodation and how you will support yourself). If applicable, what additional training you plan to complete to have your foreign professional qualification recognized.
- **health insurance** for the entire visa period (see information below)
- **proof of accommodation** for at least a month

Alternative 1:

- foreign diploma (no transcripts) including proof of recognition in Germany (see information below)

Alternative 2:

- proof of foreign qualification: diploma issued by a German Chamber of Commerce (AHK) or foreign qualification certified by ZAB (<https://zab.kmk.org/en/services>)
foreign vocational training of at least two years recognized in the country of origin or foreign diploma recognized in the country of origin), unless you have received a letter of deficit while recognizing your foreign diploma in Germany
- proof of knowledge of German and/or English (see information below)
- if applicable: proof of professional experience according to your qualification in the past seven years
- if applicable: proof of former stays in Germany for at least six months in the past five years

Additional information:

- Health insurance: until you are employed in Germany, you will have to take care of your health insurance on your own. Your health insurance must be valid for the entire period of validity of your opportunity card, minimum coverage of 30,000 EUR.
- The **recognition of your foreign university degree** can be checked in the database ANABIN (www.anabin.kmk.org). The university as well as degree itself have to be listed in the database. Further information can be found on the website www.anabin.kmk.org .

- Knowledge of German has to be proven by a language certificate issued by the Goethe Institut, ÖSD, telc language schools, TestDaF or an ALTE certified institution. Knowledge of English has to be proven by TOEFL or IELTS.
- Make sure to submit all requested documents. Incomplete applications may be refused upon submitting or while processing your application. The embassy may request additional documents upon submitting or while processing your application.

CHECKLISTS

Have you completed German vocational training or a degree from a German university? Or foreign vocational training or a degree from a foreign university which are recognized in Germany? Then you are considered a **skilled worker** pursuant to Section 18 III Residence Act and you do not need to collect points to get the opportunity card. Please provide proof of your qualification as a skilled worker in the form of:

☐ Certificate of vocational training in Germany (original document + copy)

OR

☐ Certificate of degree from a university in Germany (original document + copy)

OR

☐ Recognition of the equivalence of the foreign vocational qualification from the respective agency responsible for recognition (original document + copy)

OR

☐ Recognition of equivalence of the foreign university degree (printout from the ANABIN for your university degree)

OR (if the qualification is not assessed as “entspricht” (comparable) or “gleichwertig” (equivalent) and/or the institution is not classified as “H+”)

☐ Statement of comparability by the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) (original document + copy)

OR (in the case of regulated professions in which permission is required to exercise the profession, for example, doctors, engineers; complete list is available from the [Federal Employment Agency](https://www.bmi.bund.de/EN/Themen/Arbeitsmarktenquete/Arbeitsmarktenquete.html) or the [European Commission](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&code=sdg_8_4_1))

☐ Permission to exercise a profession issued by the authority responsible for recognizing qualifications, or assurance of permission to exercise a profession (for example, for medical professions: decision of the licensing authority in the federal territory, i.e. assurance of permission to exercise a profession or issuing of medical license (original document + copy))

You can find out more about recognition here www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de

If you are **not a skilled worker** (see above for definition), you have to meet and prove the following requirements:

☐ Foreign vocational training qualification (original document + copy) AS WELL AS

☐ Certificate (original document + copy) issued by the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) regarding your foreign vocational training qualification (state-recognized qualification, duration at least two years) OR

☐ Notice of partial recognition / Deficit notice for your vocational qualification (original document + copy)

OR

☐ Foreign university degree certificate (original document + copy) AS WELL AS

Proof of state recognition of university qualification – either in the form of

☐ Recognition of (conditional) comparability of the foreign university degree (printout from the [anabin database](#) for your university degree and your university)

OR (if the degree is not assessed as “entspricht” (comparable) or “gleichwertig” (equivalent) in the anabin database and/or the institution is not classified as “H+”)

☐ Statement of comparability by the [Central Office for Foreign Education \(ZAB\)](#) (original document + copy)

OR

☐ Vocational qualification issued by one of the German Chambers of Commerce Abroad with the relevant confirmation from the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB) (original document + copy)

Language skills:

☐ Certificate (original document + copy) of your knowledge of the German language – at least A1!

AND/OR

☐ Certificate (original document + copy) of your knowledge of the English language – at least B2! The issuer of the certificate must be certified by the [Association of Language Testers in Europe](#) (ALTE); alternatively, the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is also accepted.

You can also collect **points for the opportunity card** (details on the number of points awarded are available on our website and at [Make it in Germany](#)) by proving the following:

☐ Proof of your professional experience in the last 5 or 7 years insofar as this is connected to your vocational qualification: employment references, confirmation of employment from your employer, etc. (original documents + copy)

☐ If you have been legally resident in Germany for an uninterrupted period of at least 6 months in the last 5 years (short stays under the Schengen Agreement do not count!), please prove this by providing suitable documents, for example,

- valid rental contracts
- terms of employment, service contracts, etc.
- passports with visas and entry stamps

☐ Does your spouse/registered partner also want to apply for an opportunity card – or have they already done so – to then enter Germany together with you? If yes, one of you can collect 1 additional point for the opportunity card. Please enclose proof of the opportunity card application submitted by your spouse/partner.