

# Apply for the Opportunity Card

## The Opportunity Card – overview

The **Opportunity Card** is a **permit** that allows workers from third countries to enter Germany in order to **seek employment**. It can also be used to **search for measures to improve foreign professional qualifications** in Germany.

A **points system** will determine whether you are eligible for the Opportunity Card based on your **qualifications, knowledge and circumstances**. A **minimum score** is required for this.

If you have a **vocational qualification or degree obtained or recognised in Germany**, you can apply for the Opportunity Card **as a skilled worker** without having to achieve a certain number of points.

In both cases, you must meet the **basic requirements** listed below.

Please also note the information at the bottom of this page on the recognition of your vocational qualification or degree and on the proof of securing your livelihood.

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authority in Germany to fulfill the relevant requirements.



## The online application for the Opportunity Card

Register on the Consular Services Portal and apply online for your visa.

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### The following basic requirements must be fulfilled for the Opportunity Card:

- ✓ sufficient financial means to cover your living expenses for the duration of your stay in Germany.
- ✓ To apply as a skilled worker: University degree or vocational qualification obtained or recognised in Germany.
- ✓ To apply on a points basis: Completion of a degree or at least two years of vocational training that is recognised by the state in which it was obtained.
- ✓ To apply on a points basis: German language skills at least at level A1 or English language skills at least at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

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## The score at a glance

If the basic requirements above are fulfilled and there is no direct qualification as a skilled worker, the required minimum score of six points can be obtained via the following criteria in order to receive the Opportunity Card.

### ✔ Partial recognition of foreign educational qualification

If you have successfully completed the procedure for recognising your foreign qualification and partial equivalence has been established as a result, you will receive 4 points. The same applies in the case of a regulated profession if compensatory measures are still required for the licence to practise.

**4 points**

### ✔ Qualification in a regulated occupation

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If you can prove at least two years of professional experience appropriate to your qualifications that you have acquired within the last five years, you will receive two points. If you have at least three years of professional experience within the last seven years, you will receive three points.

2-3 points



If you have German language skills at level A2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), two points will be awarded. If you have German language skills at level B1, three points will be awarded. If you have German language skills at level B2 or higher, you will receive four points. You will receive an additional point for English language skills at level C1 or higher and at least one point for native speaker skills.

1-4 points

✓ Age

People who are under 25 years of age receive one point. People who are between 25 and 35 years of age receive two points. One point is awarded for ages between 35 and 40.

1-2 points

✓ Relationship

If you have lived continuously in Germany for at least six months in the last five years, you will receive one point. This includes stays for study, language courses or gainful employment. Stays for tourist purposes (e.g. holidays or family visits) are excluded from this.

1 point

Please note that to the above criteria must be supported by appropriate evidence or certificates.



## Further information regarding applying for and obtaining the Opportunity Card

When applying, you must prove that your professional qualification is recognised by the state either in Germany or in the country in which it was obtained. You can obtain information from the [Central Office for Foreign Education](#) [↗](#). If you have completed training at a Chamber of Commerce Abroad (AHK) that meets the requirements of the German Vocational Training Act, this certificate is sufficient. The [Chamber of Commerce Abroad](#) [↗](#) or the [Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training \(BiBB\)](#) [↗](#) can provide you with information on whether your qualification fulfils these requirements.

Proof that you will support yourself for the duration of your stay in Germany can be provided in the form of a blocked account or a declaration of commitment, for which at least **1,027 euros per month (as of 2024)** are generally required.

During your stay, if you are not finding a job, you have the opportunity to work up to 20 hours a week in a part-time job. In addition, you can take up trial jobs for up to 3 months to familiarise yourself with potential jobs.

Still have questions?

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The Visa Navigator helps you quickly and easily find the visa you need to enter and stay in Germany.

VISA NAVIGATOR

## Make it in Germany

As the Federal Government portal for skilled workers from abroad, Make it in Germany provides comprehensive information about working and living in Germany.

FIND OUT MORE

## Consulate Finder

Use the Consulate Finder to quickly and easily find the German mission responsible for you.

CONSULATE FINDER [↗](#)

## Federal Foreign Office

The website of the Federal Foreign Office provides information on all consular services as well as on German foreign policy.

FIND OUT MORE [↗](#)

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## Info and Service

About the Consular



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