



Hop-on

Ergebnisse des Fahrplans im Überblick

Christiane Arndt, Axel Dürkop, Dr. Tina Ladwig

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Hop-on Roadmap

The Hop-on Roadmap is for adults over the age of 25 and that have a temporary permission to stay, an exceptional leave to remain or a residence permit (temporary or permanent) or a German nationality. The Roadmap is like a questionnaire. The answers you give lead to a result. The results are based on newcomers and immigrants' experience and situation in life. Residence status affects the possibilities of getting a professional or academic degree. The Roadmap can't replace individual advice. That is why the Roadmap refers to advice centers where these results can be discussed.

The reuse and adaptation of the Roadmap and its results is wished-for. As a result, the license notice is as follows:

'The [GitBook "Hop-on Roadmap"](#) of [INBAS GmbH](#) and [TU Hamburg](#) originated within the framework of [Hamburg Open Online University \(HOOU\)](#). It was developed and written by Christiane Arndt (INBAS GmbH) and is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license](#).'

AA_AC

You have learnt a profession. You have already made use of the counselling on recognition of qualifications. Your vocational qualification can be recognized in Germany. You have a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain.

Recognition or to get recognized means that the relevant authority compares your vocational training with the vocational training in Germany. The relevant authority is the institution that is responsible for your profession.

You haven't contacted the relevant authority?

You can plan your next steps for recognition with the IQ support program or the relevant authorities.

You have already contacted the relevant authority?

Maybe you already received a letter with the result of the recognition process. The result is called "Bescheid".

If your "Bescheid" includes the words "volle Anerkennung" (full recognition) or "volle Gleichwertigkeit" (full equivalency) it means that your degree/certificate is recognised in Germany. Congratulations!

You can find more information about the search for a job further down in the text.

If your "Bescheid" includes the words "Teilerkennung" (partial recognition) or "teilweise Gleichwertigkeit" (partial equivalence) it means that you may need to take an extra class or gain more professional experience for a full recognition. You can find more information for qualification advice with the IQ support program in your state. The IQ support program has different solutions.

On the [IQ support program website](#) you can look up in German what advice centers you have around you.

When working in order to get the full recognition, there are special rules for the work permit and your permission to stay. You should get legal advice about this.

[Here you can find advice centers where you can inform yourself.](#)

You haven't received a "Bescheid" yet?

In most professions, you can find a job without a "Bescheid" because recognition isn't legally necessary. However it is often easier to find a job with a "Bescheid". A company will find it easier to understand what qualifications you have.

If you found a company, you need a permit from the Immigration Office that proves that you are allowed to work. It is called a "Beschäftigungserlaubnis" (employment permit) or an "Arbeitserlaubnis" (work permit). You can find more information about this further down in the text.

In some professions, like nursing or teaching, you can only start working if you have a "Bescheid". These professions are called regulated professions (reglementierte Berufe).

General Information about Finding a Job

You need to find a company.

There are many ways to find a job.

[You can find more information on how to find a job in Germany here.](#)

Most companies want a written application.

A German application consists of three parts: a letter/coverletter, a CV and any relevant certificates.

A CV gives information about your person. For example, your address, date of birth, any vocational training or studies you have done and current job/work experience.

A CV also answers three questions:

- When?
- What?
- Where?

For example: When, what and where did you study? When, what, where did you work?

Once you have found a company, you need a permit from the Immigration Office, that proves that you are allowed to work. This is called employment permit (Beschäftigungserlaubnis) or work permit (Arbeitserlaubnis).

In your papers, it usually says "Employment only with the permission of the Immigration Office."

Usually, you can only get an employment permit if you have lived in Germany for at least 3 months.

If it says "employment/work are prohibited" in your papers, get legal advice on any further action.

If the country you migrated from is "[safe](#)", there are additional legal rules to follow. In this case, you should also get legal advice.

In most German states or regions, there is a special exam provided by the Employment Agency that you have to pass if you have lived in Germany for less than 15 months. The test is called "Vorrangprüfung."

The Employment Agency checks whether someone with a German or European passport could do the job you want to do.

The Employment Agency also checks, for example, whether or not you should be paid on the basis of the statutory rules.

The tests can sometimes take a long time.

There are many rules and exceptions to the rules. Therefore, it is important that you make sure that you know as much as you can about this.

[Here you can find advice centers where you can inform yourself.](#)

Need Help with Your Application?

[You can find more information about applications here.](#)

If you are registered with the Employment Agency, there are different possibilities - for example job application training.

If you are not yet registered with the Employment Agency, you can still do that. You will not receive any unemployment benefits but you can get some help and advice. The Employment Agency can also finance job application training. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding.

[How do I register with the Employment Agency?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend!
4. Contact an advice center for more information.

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

09.14.2016

AAB

You have learnt a profession. You went to see a professional (Anerkennungsberatung) to inquire whether your degree/certificate is recognized. Your vocational qualification can be recognized in Germany.

Recognition or to get recognized means that the relevant authority compares your vocational training with the vocational training in Germany. The relevant authority is the institution that is responsible for your profession.

You haven't contacted the relevant authority?

You can plan your next steps for recognition with the IQ support program or the relevant authorities.

You have already contacted the relevant authority?

Maybe you already received a letter with the result of the recognition process. The result is called "Bescheid".

If your "Bescheid" includes the words "volle Anerkennung" (full recognition) or "volle Gleichwertigkeit" (full equivalency), that means that your degree/certificate is recognised in Germany. Congratulations!

You can find more information about the search for a job further down in the text.

If your "Bescheid" includes the words "Teilanerkennung" (partial recognition) or "teilweise Gleichwertigkeit" (partial equivalence), that means that you may need to take an extra class or gain more professional experience for a full recognition.

You can find more information for qualification advice with the IQ support program in your German state.

On the [IQ support program website](#) you can look up in German what advice centers you have around you.

You didn't receive a "Bescheid"?

In most professions, you can find a job without a "Bescheid" because recognition isn't legally necessary. However it is often easier to find a job with a "Bescheid". A company will find it easier to understand what qualifications you have.

In some professions, like nursing or teaching, you can only start working if you have a "Bescheid". These professions are called regulated professions (reglementierte Berufe).

General Information about Finding a Job

You need to find a company.

There are many ways to find a job.

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Most companies want a written application.

A German application consists of three parts: a letter/coverletter, a CV and any relevant certificates.

A CV gives information about your person. For example, your address, date of birth, any vocational training or studies you have done and current job/work experience.

A CV also answers three questions:

- When?
- What?
- Where?

For example: When, what and where did you study? When, what, where did you work?

Need Help with Your Application?

[You can find more information about applications here.](#)

If you are registered with the Employment Agency or with the Jobcenter, there are different possibilities - for example job application training.

If you are not yet registered with the Employment Agency, you can still do that. You will not receive any unemployment benefits but you can get some help and advice. The Employment Agency can also finance job application training. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding.

[How do I register with the Employment Agency?](#)

[Here, you can search for Employment Agencies close by.](#)

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend!
4. Contact an advice center, your Jobcenter or your Employment Agency for more information.

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

03.09.2016

A_AC

You do not want to (continue to) learn a profession in Germany. You would like to work. You have a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain.

This Roadmap is to help you with your vocational education rather than to help you find a job. That is why we only have a little bit of information on how to find a job.

General Information about Finding a Job

You need to find a company.

There are many ways to try to find a company and a job.

[More information on how to find a job in Germany can be found here.](#)

Most companies want a written application.

A German job application consists of three parts: a letter/cover letter, a CV and any relevant certificates.

A CV gives information about yourself, for example, your address, date of birth, any vocational training or studies you have done and current job/work experience.

A CV also answers three questions:

- When?
- What?
- Where?

For example: When, what and where did you study? When, what, where did you work?

Once you have found a company, you need a permit from the Immigration Office, that proves that you are allowed to work. These are called either an employment permit (Beschäftigungserlaubnis) or a work permit (Arbeitserlaubnis).

In your papers, it usually says "Employment only with the permission of the Immigration Office" (Beschäftigung nur mit Erlaubnis der Ausländerbehörde).

Usually, you can only get an employment permit if you have lived in Germany for at least 3 months.

If it says "employment/jobs are prohibited" (Beschäftigung/Erwerbstätigkeit nicht gestattet) in your papers, get legal advice on any further action.

If the country you migrated from is "[safe](#)", there are additional legal rules to follow. In this case, you should also get legal advice.

In some German states or regions, there is a special exam by the Employment Agency if you have lived in Germany for less than 15 months. The test is called "Vorrangprüfung."

The Employment Agency checks whether someone with a German or European passport could do the job you want to do.

The Employment Agency also checks, for example, whether or not you will be paid on the basis of the statutory rules.

Those exams can sometimes take a long time.

There are many rules and exceptions to the rules. Therefore, it is important that you make sure to get as many information as possible.

[Here you can find advice centers where you can inform yourself.](#)

Need Help with Your Application?

[You can find more information about applications here.](#)

If you are registered with the Employment Agency, there are different possibilities - for example job application training.

If you are not yet registered with the Employment Agency, you can still do that. You will not receive any unemployment benefits but you can get some help and advice. The Employment Agency can also finance job application training. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding.

[How do I register with the Employment Agency?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

General Information on Recognition

You Learnt a Profession but Have No Written Certificate?

You can still find out about how to get your certificate recognized. Recognition or to get recognized means that the relevant authority compares your vocational training with the vocational training in Germany. The relevant authority is the institution that is responsible for your profession.

For some professions, like nursing and teaching, you need a degree and recognition so that you can work in Germany. These professions are called regulated professions (reglementierte Berufe).

For most professions, you don't need recognition to be able to work in Germany. However, it is usually easier to find a good job if you have recognition of your degree/certificate or if you have a German degree. A company will find it easier to understand what qualifications you have.

[You can find more information about recognition here.](#) The website is available in German, English, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, Polish, Turkish and Greek.

[You can find more important information in English, Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Tigrinya and Pashto on this app](#) You can also find an advice center in your area.

You Learnt a Profession, but Your Degree Was Not Recognised?

A recognition process is available only for professions that have a "Referenzberuf" in Germany. A Referenzberuf is a German apprenticeship that is similar to an apprenticeship in another country. The duration and type of vocational training you have make a difference to whether or not it can be recognized in Germany.

You can decide whether you want to get a German vocational qualification in the future.

[How can adults get vocational qualifications?](#)

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend!
4. Contact an advice center for more information.
5. If you would like to get a professional degree in the future, you can always use the Roadmap again and get new results by editing it.

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

14.11.2017

AB

You don't want to (continue to) learn a profession in Germany. You want to work.

This Roadmap is to help you with your vocational or academic education rather than to help you find a job. That is why we only have a little bit of information for job hunting.

General Information about Finding a Job

You need to find a company.

There are many ways to try to find a company and a job.

[More information for job hunting in Germany can be found here.](#)

Most companies want a written application.

A German application consists of three parts: a letter/coverletter, a CV and any relevant certificates.

A CV gives information about your person. For example, your address, date of birth, any vocational training or studies you have done and current job/work experience.

A CV also answers three questions:

- When?
- What?
- Where?

For example: When, what and where did you study? When, what, where did you work?

Need Help with Your Application?

[You can find more information about applications here.](#)

If you are registered with the Employment Agency or with the Jobcenter, there are different possibilities - for example job application training.

If you are not yet registered with the Employment Agency, you can still do that. You will not receive any unemployment benefits but you can get some help and advice. The Employment Agency can also finance job application training. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding.

[How do I register with the Employment Agency?](#)

[Here, you can search for Employment Agencies close by.](#)

General Information on Recognition

You Learnt a Profession but Have No Written Certificate?

You can still find out about how to get your certificate recognized. Recognition or to get recognized means that the relevant authority compares your vocational training with the vocational training in Germany. The relevant authority is the institution that is responsible for your profession.

For some professions, like nursing and teaching, you need a degree and recognition so that you can work in Germany. These professions are called regulated professions (reglementierte Berufe).

For most professions, you don't need recognition to be able to work in Germany. However, it is usually easier to find a good job if you have recognition of your degree/certificate or if you have a German degree. A company will find it easier to understand what qualifications you have.

[You can find more information about recognition here.](#) The website is available in German, English, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, Polish, Turkish and Greek.

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You Learnt a Profession, but Your Degree Was Not Recognised?

A recognition process is available only for professions that have a Referenzberuf in Germany. A Referenzberuf is a German apprenticeship that is similar to an apprenticeship in another country. The duration and type of vocational training you have make a difference to whether or not it can be recognized in Germany.

You can decide whether you want to get a German vocational qualification in the future.

[How can adults get vocational qualifications?](#)

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend!
4. Contact an advice center, your Jobcenter or your Employment Agency for more information.
5. If you would like to get a professional degree in the future, you can always use the Roadmap again and get new results by editing it.

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

22.08.2016

AB_AC

You have learned a profession and you have a degree. You have a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain.

In Germany you can maybe get your degree recognized. A law was introduced in 2012 that regulates the recognition of professional qualifications. Recognition or to get recognized means that the relevant authority compares your vocational training with the vocational training in Germany. The relevant authority is the institution that is responsible for your profession. The official word for recognition in German is "Gleichwertigkeitsfeststellung". Which roughly translates to "equivalence assessment" in English.

The first step is to see a professional at the IQ support program for recognition to inquire

- whether there is an equivalent apprenticeship in Germany (called "Referenzberuf" in German),
- Whether recognition is necessary or useful,
- What documents you need and,
- who is responsible for the recognition of your vocational training and certificate (relevant authority).

You can also check if you have brought any certificates (evidence of education/training) with you.

Which Jobs Need Recognition?

A recognition process is available only for professions that have a Referenzberuf in Germany. A Referenzberuf is a German apprenticeship that is similar to an apprenticeship in another country. The duration and type of vocational training you have make a difference to whether or not it can be recognized in Germany.

For some professions, like nursing and teaching, you need recognition so that you can work in Germany. These professions are called regulated professions (reglementierte Berufe).

For most professions, you don't need recognition to be able to work in Germany.

However, it is usually easier to find a good job if you have recognition of your degree/certificate. A company will find it easier to understand what qualifications you have.

What German Skills Do I Need?

Seeing a professional about the recognition of your certificate can usually be done in different languages. However, a lot of the advice is in German. That's why it would be useful to know the basics in German. Check what languages are available before you meet with a professional about recognition. You can always bring an interpreter to help you.

You do not necessarily need a translation of your certificate. But it would be easier for your consultant if it was translated so he/she can plan the next steps with you.

Most of the time, all of your documents need a German translation when you are getting your degree/certificates recognized.

How Much Does This Cost? Can I Get Any Financial Support?

Seeing a professional about recognition is always free. However, the translation of your documents or the recognition procedure aren't free and the price does vary.

The translation must be done by translators that have a permit issued by the court - they must be sworn translators. [You can have a look on this website at sworn translators in German, English and French.](#)

[You can also search on this website for sworn translators in German, English, French, Italian, and Spanish.](#)

The Employment Agency can usually fund the translation of your documents and/or the recognition procedure if you have been living in Germany for 3 months. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You have to show that the translation of your documents or the recognition procedure is important to find a job. Make sure you speak to the Employment Agency about funding before you get your documents translated and before starting your recognition procedure.

If you're not registered at the Employment Agency yet, you can still do that. You won't receive any unemployment benefits but you can get advice from them.

In Baden-Württemberg, Berlin and Hamburg, the state can also support you financially if, for example, you do not have enough money.

Where Can I Find More Information?

[You can find more important information in English, Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Tigrinya and Pashto on this app](#) You can also use the app to find a helpline for your area.

[What is recognition?](#)

[How do I register with the Employment Agency?](#)

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend!
4. Contact an advice center for more information.

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Score

09.14.2016

ABB

You have learnt a profession and gotten a degree.

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The first step is to see a professional at the IQ support program for recognition to inquire

- whether there is an equivalent apprenticeship in Germany (called "Referenzberuf" in German),
- Whether recognition is necessary or useful,
- What documents you need and,
- who is responsible for the recognition of your vocational training and certificate (relevant authority).

You can also check if you have brought any certificates (evidence of education/training) with you.

Which jobs need recognition?

A recognition process is available only for professions that have a Referenzberuf in Germany. A Referenzberuf is a German apprenticeship that is similar to an apprenticeship in another country. The duration and type of vocational training you have make a difference to whether or not it can be recognized in Germany.

For some professions, like nursing and teaching, you need recognition so that you can work in Germany. These professions are called regulated professions (reglementierte Berufe).

For most professions, you don't need recognition to be able to work in Germany.

However, it is usually easier to find a good job if you have recognition of your degree/certificate. A company will find it easier to understand what qualifications you have.

What German Skills Do I Need?

Seeing a professional about the recognition of your certificate can usually be done in different languages. However, a lot of the advice is in German. That's why it would be useful to know the basics in German. Check what languages are available before you meet with a professional about recognition. You can always bring an interpreter to help you.

You do not necessarily need a translation of your certificate. But it would be easier for your consultant if it was translated so he/she can plan the next steps with you.

Most of the time, all of your documents need a German translation when you are getting your degree/certificates recognized.

How Much Does This Cost? Can I Get Any Financial Support?

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However, the translation of your documents or the recognition procedure aren't free and the price does vary.

The translation must be done by translators that have a permit issued by the court - they must be sworn translators. [You can have a look on this website at sworn translators in German, English and French.](#)

[You can also search on this website for sworn translators in German, English, French, Italian, and Spanish.](#)

The Employment Agency or the Jobcenter can fund the translation of your documents and/or the recognition procedure.

If you haven't registered with the Employment Agency or the Jobcenter yet, you can still register for the Employment Agency. You will not receive any unemployment benefits but you can get some help and advice. The Employment Agency can fund the translation of your documents and/or the recognition procedure.

However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You have to show that the translation of your documents or the recognition procedure is important to find a job.

Make sure you speak to the Employment Agency about funding.

In Baden-Württemberg, Berlin and Hamburg, the state can also support you financially if, for example, you do not have enough money.

Where Can I Find More Information?

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[What is recognition?](#)

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3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.

4. Contact an advice center, your Jobcenter or your Employment Agency for more information.

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Score

22.08.2016

AS_AC

You studied at a university. You did not get a degree. You don't want to continue studying at a University. You want to work. You have a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain.

This Roadmap is about vocational training (getting a professional degree) and academic training (academic degree). The Roadmap shows you the different ways to getting an official degree. That is why we can only have a little information to help you find a job.

General Information about Finding a Job

You need to find a company.

There are many ways to try to find a company and a job.

[Some information on how to find a job in Germany can be found here.](#)

Most companies want a written application.

A German application consists of three parts: a letter/coverletter, a CV and any relevant certificates.

A CV gives information about your person. For example, your address, date of birth, any vocational training or studies you have done and current job/work experience.

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For example: When, what and where did you study? When, what, where did you work?

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Usually, you can only get an employment permit if you have lived in Germany for at least 3 months.

If it says "employment/jobs are prohibited" (Beschäftigung/Erwerbstätigkeit nicht gestattet) in your papers, get legal advice on any further action.

If the country you migrated from is "[safe](#)", there are additional legal rules to follow. In this case, you should also get legal advice.

In some German states or regions, there is a special exam by the Employment Agency if you have lived in Germany for less than 15 months. The test is called "Vorrangprüfung."

The Employment Agency checks whether someone with a German or European passport could do the job you want to do.

The Employment Agency also checks, for example, whether or not you will be paid on the basis of the statutory rules.

The exams can sometimes take a long time.

There are many rules and exceptions to the rules. Therefore, it is important that you make sure to get as many information as possible.

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Need Help with Your Application?

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[How do i register with the Employment Agency?](#)

What can I do now?

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4. Contact an advice center for more information.
5. If you would like to get an academic degree or a professional degree in the future, you can always use the Roadmap again and get new results by editing it.

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

14.09.2016

ASB

You studied at a university but you didn't get a degree. You do not want to continue studying at a university. You want to work. You don't have a residence permit.

This Roadmap is for vocational and academic education. The Roadmap shows you the different ways to getting an official degree. That is why we can only have a little information to help you find a job.

General Information about Finding a Job

You need to find a company.

There are many ways to try to find a company and a job.

[You can find more information on how to find a job in Germany here.](#)

Most companies want a written application.

A German application consists of three parts: a letter/coverletter, a CV and any relevant certificates.

A CV gives information about your person. For example, your address, date of birth, any vocational training or studies you have done and current job/work experience.

A CV also answers three questions:

- When?
- What?
- Where?

For example: When, what and where did you study? When, what, where did you work?

Need Help with Your Application?

[You can find more information about applications here.](#)

If you are registered with the Employment Agency or with the Jobcenter, there are different possibilities - for example job application training.

If you are not yet registered with the Employment Agency, you can still do that. You will not receive any unemployment benefits but you can get some help and advice. The Employment Agency can also finance job application training. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding.

[How do I register with the Employment Agency?](#)

[Here, you can search for Employment Agencies close by.](#)

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Contact an advice center, your Jobcenter or your Employment Agency for more information.
5. If you would like to get an academic degree or a professional degree in the future, you can always use the Roadmap again and get new results by editing it.

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

22.08.2016

BNQ_AC

You have worked for several years in the profession that you want to learn. You are currently working in the profession for which you would like to get a professional degree. You have a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain.

By using your answers, different ways to getting a professional degree will be shown to you. The first way probably best suits your experience and your professional situation. If this doesn't work for you, there are other possibilities. For each path, short summaries will point out the special requirements you need.

Almost all of the routes require an employment permit from the Immigration Office.

This is the same permit that you received for your current job.

Can I Get a Residence Permit While I Have a Temporary Permission to Stay or an Exceptional Leave to Remain?

The Integration Act of 2016 has introduced new rules. If you meet specific criteria, you can get an exceptional leave to remain for the duration of your training. An exceptional leave to remain means there is a "suspension of deportation". This means that you can stay for the duration of the training in Germany.

With a professional degree and a job as a specialist in your profession, you can get a residence permit for the first two years. The other possibilities aren't specifically mentioned in the law.

You can find more information here

Many legal rules exist, not all of them can be explained here. If the country you migrated from is "safe", there are additional legal rules to follow. In this case, you should get legal advice.

[Here you can find advice centers where you can inform yourself.](#)

Do I Need a High School Diploma?

There are different laws and rules. Occupations with a school education have different rules than professions with a dual system of training. In professions with school-based training, the law requires a high school diploma. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

For professions with dual training, the law doesn't require a high school diploma. But often a high school diploma is expected in a company or institution. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

You can find more information here

Here you will find more information about the laws and rules of school and dual training.

In-service post qualification courses / in-service vocational training

If you are studying while you are working this is called in-service training. This means you will work part-time and study part-time. In addition to working, you will study at an educational institute to learn the theory that you still need to know. At the end of it, you take the official test to get a professional degree. Professions with school-based training are usually in-service vocational training. Professions with dual training are usually in-service modular qualification.

You can get a professional degree as well as have a job if:

- You are subject to social insurance,
- There is an educational institute that organizes an in-service modular qualification / in-service vocational training and,
- Your boss supports you and helps you provide the application.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training.

In what occupations are there in-service modular qualification / in-service vocational training?

In reality, in-service modular qualification / in-service vocational training doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How long does it take?

In professions with dual training duration it depends on your professional experience and your professional knowledge.

For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Generally, you study for 2 days a week in an educational institute and the other days of the week you work for your company.

What German skills do I need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good knowledge of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2.

It always depends on the profession and offer.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I get financial aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. If you meet specific requirements, the Employment Agency can fund your in-service modular qualification / in-service vocational training. A program for financing in-service modular qualification / in-service vocational training is called WeGebAU. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You can consult the Employment Agency. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do in-service modular qualification / in-service vocational training.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufpsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is an in-service modular qualification/ in-service vocational training?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufpsychologischer Service\)?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

What other possibilities exist?

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training is a course, after which you can take the official exam for a professional degree. In jobs with school-based training, the external exam for school-based training is often the same as the external exam for dual vocational training.

You can prepare for either external exam, if:

- You have worked in the profession for several years,
- there is an educational institute that organizes preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training,
- the relevant authorities agree to it. The relevant authorities is the institution that is responsible for the exams for your profession,
- You can organize to work around the preparatory course for the external exam of your choice.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training. Therefore, it is important that you go to an advice center for more information and help.

What professions offer a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?

In reality, preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training do only exist for certain professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How long does it take?

The duration can vary. It depends on the profession and the course. In professions with dual training, it can take up to 6 months. It can take more than 1 year in professions with school-based training.

Many offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in the educational institute every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to learn a lot of theory in a short period of time. You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It always depends on the profession and the offer.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I get financial aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. If you meet specific requirements, the Employment Agency can fund the preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You can consult the Employment Agency. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can also ask your boss whether he/she can pay for the course.

You can find more information here

[What is a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

In-Service Retraining

In-service retraining is like dual training except it is shorter. At the end, you take an official test to get a professional degree.

You can take part in in-service retraining in your company, if:

- Your company is allowed to have in-service retraining and,
- Your boss creates another contract with you.

What professions offer in-service retraining?

In-service retraining is especially for professions with dual training. For professions with school-based education, in-service retraining is rarely available.

How long does it take?

For professions with dual training, the length of the vocational retraining depends on the length of the vocational training in that profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

In-service retraining is usually full-time. Full time means that you will learn everyday in a school/educational institution or in your company.

What German skills do I need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I get financial aid?

Maybe you earn less money than you used to. You receive subsidized education. The Employment Agency can, for example, pay for your travel expenses. You can consult the Employment Agency. The teaching is usually in a State school

(Berufsschule). The school will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money. The Employment Agency can pay for the private school. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service retraining?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

Vocational training

Vocational training the most common and popular way to get a professional degree in Germany.

You can do vocational retraining in your company, if:

- Your company has to do vocational training and,
- Your boss creates another contract with you.

School-based training works differently to dual training. For example, for school-based training, usually you don't need an employment permit from the Immigration Office. For dual training, you need an employment permit. Therefore, it is important that you find help from an advice center.

How long does it take?

Training lasts between 2 and 3.5 years. It depends on the profession. You can also shorten your dual training if you already have professional experience, a high school diploma, or you did very well at school. You can only shorten training length in certain professions for school-based training.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in a school every day or in your (new) company. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day. For this, you must meet certain requirements.

What German skills do I need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You might earn less money than you do now. In a dual training program, your education is subsidized (funded).

The amount of money you receive depends on the job and the company. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (educational institutions), that you would have to pay for yourself.

In a school-based training program, you usually can't get subsidized education.

You can submit an application for financial assistance for vocational training.

There are laws about the conditions you have to meet.

You can find more information here

[What is vocational training?](#)

What possibilities are still available?

Modular Qualification

Modular qualification means that you are still learning the theoretical content and the practical skills that you need for the final exam. If your exam is successful, this leads to you getting your professional degree.

You can take modular qualification, if:

- there is an educational institute that organizes modular qualification,
- You can organize to work around your course at the educational institute.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training. Therefore, it is important that you go to an advice center for more information and help.

What professions offer modular qualification?

In reality, modular qualification doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

In professions with dual training duration is dependent on your existing professional experience and your professional knowledge. A modular qualification consists of modules. Often, you can also attend individual modules. You can only get a professional degree if you complete all of the necessary modules and successfully pass the final exam.

For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2.

It always depends on the profession and the offer.

Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I get financial aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. During modular qualification, you will not earn money at a company. The Employment Agency can fund modular qualification if you meet specific requirements. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do modular qualification. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufpsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

With a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain, it's unlikely that you will receive funding for modular qualification. However, you can still contact the Employment Agency for advice.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is modular qualification?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufpsychologischer Service\)?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

Retraining

Retraining is for people who want to learn a new profession. Retraining is also a possibility for you if an assessment has shown that you have less professional experience than what is needed for the other possibilities or that these other possibilities aren't available in your region. In-service retraining is different to other training possibilities because it is organised by an educational institution. At the end of it, you take the official test to get a professional degree.

You can do retraining, if:

- there is an educational institute that organizes retraining, and
- You can organize to work around your retraining at the educational institute.

What professions offer vocational retraining?

In reality, retraining doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, retraining is shorter than vocational training. It depends on the duration of the vocational training for a profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German. Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. During retraining, you will not earn money at a company. The Employment Agency can fund retraining if you meet specific requirements. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do retraining. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufpsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

With a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain, it's unlikely that you will receive funding for retraining. However, you can still contact the Employment Agency for advice.

You can find more information here

[What is retraining?](#)

What is the psychological service for employment (Berufspsychologischer Service)?

What does the Employment Agency do?

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Contact an advice center to know:
 - if your profession is a profession with school-based or dual training,
 - what offers exist around you
 - what offers are reasonable and possible in your current situation,
 - how to take part in an offer.
5. [You can search for an advice center here.](#)

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

10.09.2016

BNQB

You have worked for several years in the profession you want to learn. You are currently working in the profession in for which you want to get a professional degree. You don't receive money from the Jobcenter.

By using your answers, different ways to getting a professional degree will be shown to you. The first way probably best suits your experience and your professional situation. If this doesn't work for you, there are other possibilities. For each path, short summaries will point out the special requirements you need.

Do I Need a High School Diploma?

There are different laws and rules. Professions with school-based training have different rules to professions with dual training. In professions with school-based training, the law requires a high school diploma. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

For professions with dual training, the law doesn't require a high school diploma. But often, a high school diploma is expected in a company or institution. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

You can find more information here

[Here you will find more information about the laws and rules of school-based training and dual training.](#)

In-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training

In-service training means you will continue to work in your company. At an educational institution, you will study the theory that you still need to learn. At the end of it, you take the official test to get a professional degree. Professions with school-based training are usually in-service vocational training. Professions with dual training are usually in-service modular qualifications.

You can get a professional degree as well as have a job if:

- You are subject to social insurance,
- There is an educational institute that organizes an in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training and,
- Your boss supports you and helps you provide the application.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training.

What professions offer in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training?

In reality, in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

In professions with dual training duration is dependent on your professional experience and your professional knowledge.

For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Generally, you study for 2 days a week in an educational institute and the other days of the week you work for your company.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2.

It always depends on the profession and the offer.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways in which you can continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. If you meet specific requirements, the Employment Agency can fund your in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training. A program for financing in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training is called WeGebAU.

However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You can consult the Employment Agency. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufspsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufspsychologischer Service\)?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

What other possibilities exist?

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training is a course, after which you can take the official exam for a professional degree. In jobs with school-based training, the external exam for school-based training is often the same as the external exam for dual vocational training.

You can prepare for either external exam, if:

- You have worked in the profession for several years,
- There is an educational institute that organizes preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training,
- The relevant authorities agree to it. The relevant authority is the institution that is responsible for the exams for your profession,
- You can organize to work around the preparatory course for the external exam of your choice.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training. Therefore, it is important that you go to an advice center for more information and help.

What professions have preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?

In reality, preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training do only exist for certain professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

The duration can vary. It depends on the profession and the course. In professions with dual training, it can take up to 6 months. It can take more than 1 year in professions with school-based training.

Many offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in the educational institute every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to learn a lot of theory in a short period of time. You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It always depends on the profession and offer.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. If you meet specific requirements, the Employment Agency can fund the preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You can consult the Employment Agency. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can also ask your boss whether he/she can pay for the course.

You can find more information here:

[What is a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

In-Service Retraining

In-service retraining is like dual training except it is shorter. At the end, you take an official test to get a professional degree.

You can take part in in-service retraining in your company, if:

- Your company is allowed to have in-service retraining and,
- Your boss creates another contract with you.

You can also apply to another company for in-service retraining.

What professions offer in-service retraining?

In-service retraining is especially for professions with dual training. For professions with school-based training, in-service retraining is rarely available.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, the length of the vocational retraining depends on the length of the vocational training in that profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

In-service retraining is usually full-time. Full time means that you will learn everyday in a school/educational institution or in your company.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You will earn less money, because you get a training allowance. The Employment Agency can, for example, pay for your travel expenses. You can consult the Employment Agency. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money. The Employment Agency can pay for the private school. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service retraining?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

Vocational training

Vocational training the most common and popular way to get a professional degree in Germany.

You can do vocational retraining in your company, if:

- Vocational training is required by your company and,
- Your boss creates another contract with you.

School-based vocational training works differently than a dual training. Therefore, it is important that you find help from an advice center.

You can also apply to another company for vocational retraining.

How Long Will It Take?

Training lasts between 2 and 3.5 years. It depends on the profession. You can also shorten your dual training if you already have professional experience, a high school diploma, or you did very well at school. You can only shorten training length in certain professions for school-based training.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in a school every day or in your (new) company. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day. For this, you must meet certain requirements.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You might earn less money than you do now. In a dual training program, your education is subsidized (funded). The amount of money you receive depends on the job and the company. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money.

In a school-based training program, you usually can't get subsidized education.

You can submit an application for financial assistance for vocational training. There are laws about the conditions you have to meet.

You can find more information here

[What is vocational training?](#)

Modular Qualification

Modular qualification means that you are still learning the theoretical content and the practical skills that you need for the final exam. If your exam is successful, this leads to you getting your professional degree.

You can take modular qualification, if:

- There is an educational institute that organizes modular qualification,
- You can organize to work around your modular qualification course at the educational institute.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training. Therefore, it is important that you go to an advice center for more information and help.

What professions offer modular qualification?

In reality, modular qualification doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

In professions with dual training duration is dependent on your existing professional experience and your professional knowledge. A modular qualification consists of modules. Often, you can also attend individual modules. You can only get a professional degree if you complete all of the necessary modules and successfully pass the final exam.

For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2.

It always depends on the profession and offer.

Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. The Employment Agency can fund modular qualification if you meet specific requirements. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You can consult the Employment Agency. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do modular qualification.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufpsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is modular qualification?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufspsychologischer Service\)?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

Retraining

Retraining is for people who want to learn a new profession. Retraining is also a possibility for you if an assessment has shown that you have less professional experience than what is needed for the other possibilities or that these other possibilities aren't available in your region. In-service retraining is different to other training possibilities because it is organised by an educational institution. At the end, you will take the official test for a professional degree.

You can do retraining, if:

- There is an educational institute that organizes retraining, and
- You can organize to work around your retraining at the educational institute.

What professions offer vocational retraining?

In reality, retraining doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, retraining is shorter than vocational training. It depends on the duration of the vocational training for a profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German. Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. During retraining, you will not earn money at a company. The Employment Agency can fund retraining if you meet specific requirements. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You can consult the Employment Agency. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do retraining.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufspsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

If your residence permit is shorter than the retraining, you should speak with the Immigration Office. Otherwise, the Jobcenter might not pay for your retraining.

You can find more information here

[What is retraining?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufspsychologischer Service\)?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Contact an advice center to know:
 - if your profession is a profession with school-based or dual training,
 - what offers exist around you and,
 - how to take part in an offer.
5. [You can search for an advice center here.](#)

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

14.09.2016

BNQBJC

You have worked for several years in the profession you want to learn. You are currently working in the profession in for which you want to get a professional degree. You receive money from the Jobcenter.

By using your answers, different ways to getting a professional degree will be shown to you. The first way probably best suits your experience and your professional situation. If this doesn't work for you, there are other possibilities. For each path, short summaries will point out the special requirements you need.

Do I Need a High School Diploma?

There are different laws and rules. Professions with school-based training have different rules to professions with dual training. In professions with school-based training, the law requires a high school diploma. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

For professions with dual training, the law doesn't require a high school diploma. But often, a high school diploma is expected in a company or institution. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

You can find more information here

[Here you will find more information about the laws and rules of school-based training and dual training.](#)

In-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training

In-service training means to continue to work in your company. In addition, you will learn the theory, you still need to know in an educational institution. At the end of it, you take the official test to get a professional degree. Professions with school-based training are usually in-service vocational training. Professions with dual training are usually in-service modular qualifications.

You can get a professional degree as well as have a job if:

- You are subject to social insurance,
- There is an educational institute that organizes an in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training and,
- Your boss supports you and helps you provide the application.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training.

What professions offer in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training?

In reality, in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

In professions with dual training duration is dependent on your professional experience and their professional knowledge.

For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Generally, you study for 2 days a week in an educational institute and the other days of the week you work for your company.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2.

It always depends on the profession and the offer.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. You will receive more money from the Jobcenter. The Jobcenter can fund in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training. A program for financing in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training is called WeGebAU. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufspsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufspsychologischer Service\)?](#)

What other possibilities exist?

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training is a course, after which you can take the official exam for a professional degree. In jobs with school-based training, the external exam for school-based training is often the same as the external exam for dual vocational training.

You can prepare for either external exam, if:

- You have worked in the profession for several years,
- There is an educational institute that organizes preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training,
- The relevant authorities agree to it. The relevant authority is the institution that is responsible for the exams for your profession,
- You can organize to work around the preparatory course for the external exam of your choice.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training. Therefore, it is important that you go to an advice center for more information and help.

What professions have preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?

In reality, preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training do only exist for certain professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

The duration can vary. It depends on the profession and the course. In professions with dual training, it can take up to 6 months. It can take more than 1 year in professions with school-based training.

Many offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in the educational institute every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to learn a lot of theory in a short period of time. You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It always depends on the profession and offer.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. You will receive more money from the Jobcenter. You should talk to your Jobcenter about how you can combine preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training and your job. The Jobcenter can pay for the preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can also ask your boss whether he/she can pay for the course.

You can find more information here

[What is a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?](#)

Modular Qualification

Modular qualification means that you are still learning the theoretical content and the practical skills that you need for the final exam. If your exam is successful, this leads to you getting your professional degree.

You can take modular qualification, if:

- There is an educational institute that organizes modular qualification,
- You can organize to work around your modular qualification at the educational institute.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training. Therefore, it is important that you go to an advice center for more information and help.

What professions offer modular qualification?

In reality, modular qualification doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

In professions with dual training duration is dependent on your existing professional experience and your professional knowledge. A modular qualification course consists of modules. Often, you can also attend individual modules. You can only get a professional degree if you complete all of the necessary modules and successfully pass the final exam.

For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2.

It always depends on the profession and offer.

Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. You will receive more money from the Jobcenter. You should talk to your Jobcenter about how you can combine modular qualification and your job. The Jobcenter can pay for your modular qualification course. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do modular qualification. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufpsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is modular qualification?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufspsychologischer Service\)?](#)

In-Service Retraining

In-service retraining is like dual training except it is shorter. At the end, you take an official test to get a professional degree.

You can take part in in-service retraining in your company, if:

- Your company is allowed to have in-service retraining and,
- Your boss creates another contract with you.

You can also apply to another company for in-service retraining.

What professions offer in-service retraining?

In-service retraining is especially for professions with dual training. For professions with school-based education, in-service retraining is rarely available.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, the length of the in-service retraining depends on the length of the in-service retraining in that profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length. In-service retraining is usually full-time. Full time means that you will study at a school/educational institution or in your company everyday.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You might earn less money because you can get a funding for vocational training. You will receive more money from the Jobcenter. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money. The Jobcenter can pay for private schools. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service retraining?](#)

Vocational training

Vocational training is the most common and popular way to get a professional degree in Germany.

You can do vocational training in your company, if:

- Vocational training is required by your company and,
- Your boss creates another contract with you.

School-based vocational training works differently than a dual training. Therefore, it is important that you find help from an advice center.

You can also apply to another company for vocational retraining.

How Long Will It Take?

Vocational training lasts between 2 and 3.5 years. It depends on the profession. You can also shorten your dual training if you already have professional experience, a high school diploma, or you did very well at school. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length. You can shorten the length of your vocational training for certain professions.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in a school every day or in your (new) company. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day. For this, you must meet certain requirements.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You might earn less money than you do at your current job. In a dual training program, your education is subsidized (funded). The amount of money you receive depends on the job and the company. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (educational institutions), that you would have to pay for yourself. You won't earn any money doing school-based training. Sometimes you have to pay a schooling fee.

You can submit an application for financial assistance for vocational training. There are laws about the conditions you have to meet. If financial support isn't an option, you can receive money from the Jobcenter. It is very important that you talk to your Jobcenter first.

You can find more information here

[What is vocational training?](#)

Retraining

Retraining is for people who want to learn a new profession. Retraining is also a possibility for you if an assessment has shown that you have less professional experience than what is needed for the other possibilities or that these other possibilities aren't available in your region. In-service retraining is different to other training possibilities because it is organised by an educational institution. At the end of it, you take the official test to get a professional degree.

You can do retraining, if:

- There is an educational institute that organizes retraining, and
- You can organize to work around your retraining at the educational institute.

What professions offer vocational retraining?

In reality, retraining doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, retraining is shorter than vocational training. It depends on the duration of the vocational training for a profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length. Most offers are full time. Full time means you get about 7-8 hours, for example in the educational institution or in an internship in a company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German. Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. You will receive more money from the Jobcenter. You should talk to your Jobcenter about how you can combine your retraining and your job. The Jobcenter can pay for your retraining. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do retraining. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree. Often, you must take a test to obtain financial support. The test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufspsychologischen service) of the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

If your residence permit is shorter than the retraining, you should speak with the Immigration Office. Otherwise, the Jobcenter might not pay for your retraining.

You can find more information here

[What is retraining?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufspsychologischer Service\)?](#)

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Contact an advice center to know:
 - if your profession is a profession with school-based or dual training,
 - what offers exist around you and
 - how you can take part in an offer.
5. [You can search for an advice center here.](#)

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

14.09.2016

BU_AC

You are currently working in the profession for which you would like to get a professional degree. You have never worked in the profession you want to study. You have a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain.

By using your answers, different ways to getting a professional degree will be shown to you. The first way probably best suits your experience and your professional situation. If this doesn't work for you, there are other possibilities. For each path, short summaries will point out the special requirements you need.

Almost all of the routes require an employment permit from the Immigration Office.

This is the same permit that you received for your current job.

Can I Get a Residence Permit While I Have a Temporary Permission to Stay or an Exceptional Leave to Remain?

The Integration Act of 2016 has introduced new rules. If you meet specific criteria, you can get an exceptional leave to remain for the duration of your training. An exceptional leave to remain means there is a "suspension of deportation". This means that you can stay for the duration of the training in Germany.

With a professional degree and a job as a specialist in your profession, you can get a residence permit for the first two years. The other possibilities aren't specifically mentioned in the law.

You can find more information here

Many legal rules exist, not all of them can be explained here. If the country you migrated from is "safe", there are additional legal rules to follow. In this case, you should get legal advice.

[Here you can find advice centers where you can inform yourself.](#)

Do I Need a High School Diploma?

There are different laws and rules. Professions with school-based training have different rules to professions with dual training. In professions with vocational training, the law requires a high school diploma. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

For professions with dual training, the law doesn't require a high school diploma. But often a high school diploma is expected in a company or institution. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

You can find more information here

[Here you will find more information about the laws and rules of school-based training and dual training.](#)

In-Service Retraining

In-service retraining is like dual training except it is shorter. At the end, you take an official test to get a professional degree.

You can take part in in-service retraining in your company, if:

- Your company is allowed to have in-service retraining and,
- Your boss creates another contract with you.

What professions offer in-service retraining?

In-service retraining is especially for professions with dual training. For professions with school-based education, in-service retraining is rarely available.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, the length of the vocational retraining depends on the length of the vocational training in that profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

In-service retraining is usually full-time. Full time means that you will learn everyday in a school/educational institution or in your company.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You might earn less money than you do now. However, your education is subsidized (funded).

The Employment Agency can, for example, pay for your travel expenses. You can consult the Employment Agency. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (educational institutions), that you would have to pay for yourself. The Employment Agency can pay for the private school. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service retraining?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

Vocational training

Vocational training is the most common and popular way to get a professional degree in Germany.

You can do vocational training in your company, if:

- Vocational training is required by your company and,
- Your boss creates another contract with you.

School-based training works differently to dual training. For example, for school-based training, usually you don't need an employment permit from the Immigration Office. For dual training, you need an employment permit. Therefore, it is important that you find help from an advice center.

How Long Will It Take?

Vocational training lasts between 2 and 3.5 years. It depends on the profession. You can also shorten your dual training if you already have professional experience, a high school diploma, or you did very well at school. You can only shorten training length in certain professions for school-based training.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in a school or in your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day. For this, you must meet certain requirements.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You might earn less money than you do now. In a dual training program, your education is subsidized (funded).

The amount of money you receive depends on the job and the company. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (educational institutions), that you would have to pay for yourself.

In a school-based training program, you usually can't get subsidized education.

You can submit an application for financial assistance for vocational training.

There are laws about the conditions you have to meet.

You can find more information here

[What is vocational training?](#)

What possibilities are still available?

Modular Qualification

Modular qualification means that you are still learning the theoretical content and the practical skills that you need for the final exam. If your exam is successful, this leads to you getting your professional degree.

You can take modular qualification, if:

- You have been working in the profession for a long time,
- There is an educational institute that organizes modular qualification,
- You can organize to work around your modular qualification at the educational institute.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training. Therefore, it is important that you go to an advice center for more information and help.

What professions offer modular qualification?

In reality, modular qualification doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

In professions with dual training duration is dependent on your existing professional experience and your professional knowledge. A modular qualification course consists of modules. Often, you can also attend individual modules. You can only get a professional degree if you complete all of the necessary modules and successfully pass the final exam.

For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, you need knowledge of German B2.

It always depends on the profession and offer.

Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. During a modular qualification, you will not earn money at a company. The Employment Agency can fund modular qualification if you meet specific requirements. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do a modular qualification. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufspsychologischen) at the Employment Agency.

With a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain, it's unlikely that you will receive funding for a modular qualification. However, you can still contact the Employment Agency for advice.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is modular qualification?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufspsychologischer Service\)?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

Extra post-qualification/extra vocational training

If you are studying while you are working this is called in-service training. This means you will work part-time and study part-time. At an educational institution, you will study the theory that you still need to learn. At the end, you will take the

official test for a professional degree. Professions with school-based training are usually in-service vocational training. Professions with dual training are usually in-service modular qualification.

You can get a professional degree as well as have a job if:

- You have been working in the profession for a long time,
- You are subject to social insurance,
- There is an educational institute that organizes an in-service modular qualification course,
- Your boss supports you and helps you provide the application.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training.

In what occupations are there in-service modular qualification / in-service vocational training?

In reality, in-service modular qualification / in-service vocational training doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

In professions with dual training duration is dependent on your professional experience and your professional knowledge.

For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Generally, you study for 2 days a week in an educational institute and the other days of the week you work for your company.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, you need knowledge of German B2.

It always depends on the profession and offer.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. The Employment Agency can pay for in-service modular qualification. A program for financing in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training is called WeGebAU. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You can

consult the Employment Agency. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufpsychologischen) at the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufpsychologischer Service\)?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training is a course, after which you can take the official exam for a professional degree. In jobs with school-based training, the external exam for school-based training is often the same as the external exam for dual vocational training.

You can prepare for either external exam, if:

- You have worked in the profession for several years,
- There is an educational institute that organizes preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training,
- The relevant authorities agree to it. The relevant authority is the institution that is responsible for the exams for your profession,
- You can organize to work around the preparatory course for the external exam of your choice.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training. Therefore, it is important that you go to an advice center for more information and help.

For which professions can you take a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?

In reality, preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training do only exist for certain professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

The duration can vary. It depends on the profession and the course. In professions with dual training, it can take up to 6 months. It can take more than 1 year in professions with educational training.

Many offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in the educational institute every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to learn a lot of theory in a short period of time. You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It always depends on the profession and offer.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. The Employment Agency can pay for the preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You can consult the Employment Agency. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can also ask your boss whether he/she can pay for the course.

You can find more information here

[What is a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

Retraining

Retraining is for people who want to learn a new profession. Retraining is also a possibility for you if an assessment has shown that you have less professional experience than what is needed for the other possibilities or that these other possibilities aren't available in your region. In-service retraining is different to other training possibilities because it is organised by an educational institution. At the end, you will take the official test for a professional degree.

You can do retraining, if:

- There is an educational institute that organizes retraining, and
- You can organize to work around your retraining at the educational institute.

For which professions can you take vocational retraining?

In reality, retraining doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, retraining is shorter than vocational training. It depends on the duration of the vocational training for a profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, you need knowledge of German B2. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German. Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. During retraining, you will not earn money at a company. The Employment Agency can fund retraining if you meet specific requirements. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written

argument that explains why you want to do retraining. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufpsychologischen) at the Employment Agency.

With a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain, it's unlikely that you will receive funding for retraining. However, you can still contact the Employment Agency for advice.

You can find more information here

[What is retraining?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufpsychologischer Service\)?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Contact an advice center to know:
 - if your profession is a profession with school-based or dual training,
 - what offers exist around you
 - what offers are reasonable and possible in your current situation,
 - how to take part in an offer.
5. You can search for an advice center here.

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

10.09.2016

BUB

You are currently working in the profession for which you would like to get a professional degree. You have never worked in the profession you want to study. You receive money from the Jobcenter.

By using your answers, different ways to getting a professional degree will be shown to you. The first way probably best suits your experience and your professional situation. If this doesn't work for you, there are other possibilities. For each path, short summaries will point out the special requirements you need.

Do I Need a High School Diploma?

There are different laws and rules. Professions with school-based training have different rules to professions with dual training. In professions with vocational training, the law requires a high school diploma. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

For professions with dual training, the law doesn't require a high school diploma. But often, a high school diploma is expected in a company or institution. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

You can find more information here

[Here you will find more information about the laws and rules of school-based training and dual training.](#)

Vocational retraining

In-service retraining is like dual training except it is shorter. At the end, you take an official test to get a professional degree.

You can do In-service retraining in your company, if:

- Your company is allowed to have in-service retraining and,
- Your boss creates another contract with you.

You can also apply to another company for in-service retraining.

For which professions can you take in-service retraining?

In-service retraining is especially for professions with dual training. For professions with school-based education, in-service retraining is rarely available.

How Long Does It Take?

For professions with dual training, the length of the vocational retraining depends on the length of the vocational training in that profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

In-service retraining is usually full-time. Full time means that you will learn everyday in a school/educational institution or in your company.

What German skills do I need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You will earn less money, because you get a training allowance. The Employment Agency can, for example, pay for your travel expenses. You can consult the Employment Agency. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (educational institutions), that you would have to pay for yourself. The Employment Agency can pay for the private school. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service retraining?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

Vocational training

Vocational training is the most common and popular way to get a professional degree in Germany.

You can do vocational training in your company, if:

- Vocational training is required by your company and,
- Your boss creates another contract with you.

School-based vocational training works differently than a dual training. Therefore, it is important that you find help from an advice center.

You can also apply to another company for vocational retraining.

How Long Will It Take?

Vocational training lasts between 2 and 3.5 years. It depends on the profession. You can also shorten your dual training if you already have professional experience, a high school diploma, or you did very well at school. You can only shorten training length in certain professions for school-based training.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in a school or in your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day. For this, you must meet certain requirements.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You might earn less money than you do now. In a dual training program, your education is subsidized (funded). The amount of money you receive depends on the job and the company. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (educational institutions), that you would have to pay for yourself.

In a school-based training program, you usually can't get subsidized education.

You can submit an application for financial assistance for vocational training. There are laws about the conditions you have to meet.

You can find more information here

[What is vocational training?](#)

What possibilities are still available?

Modular Qualification

Modular qualification means that you are still learning the theoretical content and the practical skills that you need for the final exam. If your exam is successful, this leads to you getting your professional degree.

You can take a modular qualification course, if:

- You have been working in the profession for a long time,
- There is an educational institute that organizes a modular qualification course,

- You can organize to work around your modular qualification at the educational institute.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training. Therefore, it is important that you go to an advice center for more information and help.

In what jobs there to learn?

In reality, modular qualification doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

In professions with dual training duration is dependent on your existing professional experience and your professional knowledge. A modular qualification course consists of modules. Often, you can also attend individual modules. You can only get a professional degree if you complete all of the necessary modules and successfully pass the final exam.

For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, you need knowledge of German B2.

It always depends on the profession and offer.

Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. During a modular qualification, you will not earn money at a company. The Employment Agency can pay for modular qualification. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You can consult the Employment Agency. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do a modular qualification. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufspsychologischen) at the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is modular qualification?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufspsychologischen Service\)?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

In-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training

If you are studying while you are working this is called in-service training. This means you will work part-time and study part-time. At an educational institution, you will study the theory that you still need to learn. At the end, you will take the official test for a professional degree. Professions with school-based training are usually in-service vocational training. Professions with dual training are usually in-service modular qualification.

You can get a professional degree as well as have a job if:

- You have been working in the profession for a long time,
- You are subject to social insurance,
- There is an educational institute that organizes In-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training,
- Your boss supports you and helps you provide the application.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training.

In what occupations are there in-service modular qualification / in-service vocational training?

In reality, in-service modular qualification / in-service vocational training doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

In professions with dual training duration is dependent on your professional experience and your professional knowledge.

For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Generally, you study for 2 days a week in an educational institute and the other days of the week you work for your company.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, you need knowledge of German B2.

It always depends on the profession and offer.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. The Employment Agency can pay for in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training. A program for financing in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training is called WeGebAU. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You can consult the Employment Agency. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufpsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is an in-service modular qualification/ in-service vocational training?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufpsychologischen Service\)?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training is a course, after which you can take the official exam for a professional degree. In jobs with school-based training, the external exam for

school-based training is often the same as the external exam for dual vocational training.

You can prepare for either external exam, if:

- You have worked in the profession for several years,
- There is an educational institute that organizes preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training,
- The relevant authorities agree to it. The relevant authority is the institution that is responsible for the exams for your profession,
- You can organize to work around the preparatory course for the external exam of your choice.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training. Therefore, it is important that you go to an advice center for more information and help.

For which professions can you take a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?

In reality, preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training do only exist for certain professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

The duration can vary. It depends on the profession and the course. In professions with dual training, it can take up to 6 months. It can take more than 1 year in professions with educational training.

Many offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in the educational institute every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to learn a lot of theory in a short period of time. You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It always depends on the profession and offer.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. The Employment Agency can pay for the preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You can consult the Employment Agency. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can also ask your boss whether he/she can pay for the course.

You can find more information here

[What is a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

Retraining

Retraining is for people who want to learn a new profession. Retraining is also a possibility for you if an assessment has shown that you have less professional experience than what is needed for the other possibilities or that these other possibilities aren't available in your region. In-service retraining is different to other training possibilities because it is organised by an educational institution. At the end, you will take the official test for a professional degree.

You can do retraining, if:

- There is an educational institute that organizes retraining, and
- You can organize to work around your retraining at the educational institute.

For which professions can you take vocational retraining?

In reality, retraining doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, retraining is shorter than vocational training. It depends on the duration of the vocational training for a profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, you need knowledge of German B2. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German. Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. During retraining, you will not earn money at a company. The Employment Agency can pay for retraining. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You can consult the Employment Agency. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do retraining. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufspsychologischen) at the Employment Agency.

If your residence permit is shorter than the retraining, you should speak with the Immigration Office. Otherwise, the Jobcenter might not pay for your retraining.

You can find more information here

[What is retraining?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufspsychologischen Service\)?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

So, what can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Contact an advice center to know:
 - if your profession is a profession with school-based or dual training,
 - what offers exist around you and
 - how you can take part in an offer.
5. You can search for an advice center [here](#).

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

09.14.2016

BUBJC

You are currently working in the profession for which you would like to get a professional degree. You have never worked in the profession you want to study. You receive money from the Jobcenter.

By using your answers, different ways to getting a professional degree will be shown to you. The first way probably best suits your experience and your professional situation. If this doesn't work for you, there are other possibilities. For each path, short summaries will point out the special requirements you need.

Do I Need a High School Diploma?

There are different laws and rules. Professions with school-based training have different rules to professions with dual training. In professions with school-based training, the law requires a high school diploma. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

For professions with dual training, the law doesn't require a high school diploma. But often, a high school diploma is expected in a company or institution. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

You can find more information here

[Here you will find more information about the laws and rules of school-based training and dual training.](#)

Modular Qualification

Modular qualification means that you are still learning the theoretical content and the practical skills that you need for the final exam. If your exam is successful, this leads to you getting your professional degree.

You can take modular qualification, if:

- You have been working in the profession for a long time,
- There is an educational institute that organizes modular qualification,
- You can organize to work around your modular qualification course at the educational institute.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training. Therefore, it is important that you go to an advice center for more information and help.

What professions offer modular qualification?

In reality, modular qualification doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

In professions with dual training duration is dependent on your existing professional experience and your professional knowledge. A modular qualification consists of modules. Often, you can also attend individual modules. You can only get a professional degree if you complete all of the necessary modules and successfully pass the final exam.

For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at a company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2.

It always depends on the profession and the offer.

Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. You will receive more money from the Jobcenter. You should talk to your Jobcenter about how you can combine modular qualification and your job. The Jobcenter can pay for your modular qualification course. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do modular qualification. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufpsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is modular qualification?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufpsychologischer Service\)?](#)

What other possibilities exist?

In-Service Retraining

In-service retraining is like dual training except it is shorter. At the end, you take an official test to get a professional degree.

You can take part in in-service retraining in your company, if:

- Your company is allowed to have in-service retraining and,
- Your boss creates another contract with you.

You can also apply to another company for in-service retraining.

What professions offer in-service retraining?

In-service retraining is especially for professions with dual training. For professions with school-based education, in-service retraining is rarely available.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, the length of the vocational retraining depends on the length of the vocational training in that profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

In-service retraining is usually full-time. Full time means that you will learn everyday in a school/educational institution or in your company.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You might earn less money because you can get a funding for vocational training. You will receive more money from the Jobcenter. The Jobcenter can, for example, pay for your travel expenses. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money. The Jobcenter can pay for private schools. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service retraining?](#)

In-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training

If you are studying while you are working this is called in-service training. This means you will work part-time and study part-time. In addition to working, you will study at an educational institute to learn the theory that you still need to know. At the end of it, you take the official test to get a professional degree. Professions with school-based training are usually in-service vocational training. Professions with dual training are usually in-service modular qualifications.

You can get a professional degree as well as have a job if:

- You have been working in the profession for a long time,
- You are subject to social insurance,
- There is an educational institute that organizes an in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training and,
- Your boss supports you and helps you provide the application.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training.

What professions offer in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training?

In reality, in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

In professions with dual training duration is dependent on your professional experience and your professional knowledge.

For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Generally, you study for 2 days a week in an educational institute and the other days of the week you work for your company.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2.

It always depends on the profession and offer.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. You will receive more money from the Jobcenter. A program for financing in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training is called WeGebAU. Thanks to this, the Jobcenter can pay for in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufspsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufspsychologischer Service\)?](#)

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training is a course, after which you can take the official exam for a professional degree. In jobs with school-based training, the external exam for school-based training is often the same as the external exam for dual vocational training.

You can prepare for either external exam, if:

- You have worked in the profession for several years,
- There is an educational institute that organizes preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training,
- The relevant authorities agree to it. The relevant authority is the institution that is responsible for the exams for your profession,
- You can organize to work around the preparatory course for the external exam of your choice.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training. Therefore, it is important that you go to an advice center for more information and help.

What professions have preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?

In reality, preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training do only exist for certain professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labor market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

The duration can vary. It depends on the profession and the course. In professions with dual training, it can take up to 6 months. It can take more than 1 year in professions with school-based training.

Many offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in the educational institute every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to learn a lot of theory in a short period of time. You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It always depends on the profession and offer.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. You will receive more money from the Jobcenter. The Jobcenter can pay for the preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can also ask your boss whether he/she can pay for the course.

You can find more information here

[What is a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?](#)

Vocational training

Vocational training the most common and popular way to get a professional degree in Germany.

You can do vocational retraining in your company, if:

- Vocational training is required by your company and,
- Your boss creates another contract with you.

School-based vocational training works differently than dual vocational training. Therefore, it is important that you find help from an advice center.

You can also apply to another company for vocational retraining.

How Long Will It Take?

Vocational training lasts between 2 and 3.5 years. It depends on the profession. You can also shorten your dual training if you already have professional experience, a high school diploma, or you did very well at school. You can only shorten training length in certain professions for school-based training.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in a school every day or in your (new) company. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day. For this, you must meet certain requirements.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You might earn less money than you do now. In a dual training program, your education is subsidized (funded). The amount of money you receive depends on the job and the company. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money.

In a school-based training program, you usually can't get subsidized education.

You can submit an application for financial assistance for vocational training. There are laws about the conditions you have to meet. If financial support isn't an option, you can receive money from the Jobcenter. It is very important that you talk to your Jobcenter first.

You can find more information here

[What is vocational training?](#)

Retraining

Retraining is for people who want to learn a new profession. Retraining is also a possibility for you if an assessment has shown that you have less professional experience than what is needed for the other possibilities or that these other possibilities aren't available in your region. In-service retraining is organised by an educational institution. This is what makes it different to other retraining possibilities. At the end of it, you take the official test to get a professional degree.

You can do retraining, if:

- There is an educational institute that organizes retraining, and
- You can organize to work around your retraining at the educational institute.

What professions offer retraining?

In reality, retraining doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, retraining is shorter than vocational training. It depends on the duration of the vocational training for a profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German. Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. You will receive more money from the Jobcenter. You should talk to your Jobcenter about how you can combine your retraining and your job. The Jobcenter can pay for your retraining. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do retraining. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufpsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

If your residence permit is shorter than the retraining, you should speak with the Immigration Office. Otherwise, the Jobcenter might not pay for your retraining.

You can find more information here

[What is retraining?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufpsychologischer Service\)?](#)

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Contact an advice center to know:
 - if your profession is a profession with school-based or dual training,
 - what offers exist around you and
 - how you can take part in an offer.
5. [You can search for an advice center here.](#)

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

14.09.2016

CA

You don't want to or can't work right now. You don't want to or can't (continue to) learn a profession in Germany. You have a temporary permission to stay.

Maybe the reason for this is that you:

- have to put your family first,
- don't have somewhere to live,
- are sick,
- don't know enough German,
- are afraid that your application for asylum will be rejected,
- don't know what you can do with a temporary permission to stay,
- don't have a work permit,
- have other problems.

There are many advice centers for various topics. The people there can help you find a solution.

What German Skills Do I Need?

Often, you can get advice in different languages. However, many offers are in German. That's why it could be useful to know the basics in German. You can always bring an interpreter to help you.

How Much Would This Cost?

Many advice centers are free.

Where Can I Find More Information?

[Where can I find counselling services and projects?](#)

[How can I learn more German?](#)

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Contact an advice center for more information.
5. If you would like to get a professional degree in the future, you can always use the Roadmap again and get new results by editing it.

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

03.09.2016

CABC

You have studied. You don't want to continue to study and you don't want to or can't work right now. You also don't want to learn a new profession.

Maybe the reason for this is that you:

- have to put your family first,
- have to take care of your family,
- don't have somewhere to live,
- are sick,
- don't have somewhere safe to live (sicheren Aufenthalt),
- don't know enough German or,
- have other problems.

There are many advice centers for various topics. The people there can help you find a solution.

What German Skills Do I Need?

Often, you can get advice in different languages. However, many offers are in German. That's why it could be useful to know the basics in German. You can always bring an interpreter to help you.

How Much Would This Cost?

Many advice centers are free.

Where Can I Find More Information?

[Where can I find counselling services and projects?](#)

How can I learn more German?

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Contact an advice center for more information.
5. If you would like to get a professional degree in the future, you can always use the Roadmap again and get new results by editing it.

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

22.08.2016

CB

You don't want to or can't work right now. You don't want to or can't (continue to) learn a profession in Germany. You have a residence permit.

Maybe the reason for this is that you:

- have to put your family first,
- have to take care of your family,
- don't have somewhere to live,
- are sick,
- don't know enough German or,
- have other problems.

There are many advice centers for various topics. The people there can help you find a solution.

What German Skills Do I Need?

Often, you can get advice in different languages. However, many offers are in German. That's why it could be useful to know the basics in German. You can always bring an interpreter to help you.

How Much Would This Cost?

Many advice centers are free.

Where Can I Find More Information?

[Where can I find counselling services and projects?](#)

[How can I learn more German?](#)

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Contact an advice center for more information.
5. If you would like to get a professional degree in the future, you can always use the Roadmap again and get new results by editing it.

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

23.08.2016

CC

You don't want to or can't work right now. You don't want to or can't (continue to) learn a profession in Germany. You have an exceptional leave to remain.

Maybe the reason for this is that you:

- have to put your family first,
- don't have somewhere to live,
- are sick,
- don't know enough German,
- don't know what you can do with an exceptional leave to remain,
- don't have a work permit,
- have other problems.

There are many advice centers for various topics. The people there can help you find a solution.

What German Skills Do I Need?

Often, you can get advice in different languages. However, many offers are in German. That's why it could be useful to know the basics in German. You can always bring an interpreter to help you.

How Much Would This Cost?

Many advice centers are free.

Where Can I Find More Information?

[Where can I find counselling services and projects?](#)

[How can I learn more German?](#)

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Contact an advice center for more information.
5. If you would like to get a professional degree in the future, you can always use the Roadmap again and get new results by editing it.

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

03.09.2016

EA_AC

You know which profession you want to learn in Germany. You have not worked in this profession for several years. You have a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain.

By using your answers, different ways to getting a professional degree will be shown to you. These options are available to you if:

- You have found a company or school for the profession in which you want to get a professional degree.

For each path, short summaries will point out the special requirements you need.

Almost all of the possibilities require a work permit from the Immigration Office.

This is a document from the Immigration Office that gives you permission to work. If you have lived in Germany for 3 to 6 months, you can usually get an employment permit.

Many legal rules exist, not all of them can be explained here. If the country you migrated from is "safe", there are additional legal rules to follow. In this case, you should also get legal advice.

Can I Get a Residence Permit While I Have a Temporary Permission to Stay or an Exceptional Leave to Remain?

The Integration Act of 2016 has introduced new rules. If you meet specific criteria, you can get an exceptional leave to remain for the duration of your training. An exceptional leave to remain means there is a "suspension of deportation". This means that you can stay for the duration of your vocational training in Germany.

With a professional degree and a job as a specialist in your profession, you can get a residence permit for the first two years. Other possibilities aren't specifically mentioned in the law.

Here you will find more information

[Here you can find advice centers where you can inform yourself.](#)

Do I Need a High School Diploma?

There are different laws and rules. Professions with school-based training have different rules to professions with dual training. In professions with formal training, you need a school according to the law. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

For professions with dual training, the law doesn't require a high school diploma. But often, a high school diploma is expected in a company or institution. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

You can find more information here

[Here you will find more information about the laws and rules of school-based training and dual training.](#)

In-Service Retraining

In-service retraining is like dual training except it is shorter. At the end, you take an official test to get a professional degree.

You can take part in in-service retraining if:

- You find a company where you can do in-service retraining. Most of the time, you will have to apply for this.
- You can get a work permit from your Immigration Office.

What professions offer in-service retraining?

In-service retraining is especially for professions with dual training. For professions with school-based training, you can rarely do in-service retraining. If you want to learn a professions with school-based training, in-service vocational training could be an option for you. However, there are several conditions to meet for in-service vocational training.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, the length of the vocational retraining depends on the length of the vocational training in that profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

In-service retraining is usually full-time. Full time means that you will learn everyday in a school/educational institution or in your company.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You receive subsidized education (funding). The Employment Agency can, for example, pay for your travel expenses. You can consult the Employment Agency. You will not receive any unemployment benefits but you can get some help and advice.

The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money. The Employment Agency can pay for the private school. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service retraining?](#)

[What is in-service vocational training?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

[How do I register with the Employment Agency?](#)

Vocational training

Vocational training the most common and popular way to get a professional degree in Germany.

You can do vocational retraining if:

- You can find a company or a school that agrees to a vocational training contract with you. Most of the time you need to apply for this.

School-based training works differently to dual training. For example, for school-based training, usually you don't need an employment permit from the Immigration Office. For dual training, you need an employment permit. Therefore, it is important that you get help from an advice center.

How Long Will It Take?

Vocational training lasts between 2 and 3.5 years. It depends on the profession. You can shorten your dual training if you already have professional experience, a high school diploma, or you did very well at school. For school-based training, you can only shorten training length in certain professions. Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in a school or in your company every day. Sometimes there is also offers part time, meaning less hours per day. For this, you must meet certain requirements.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

In a dual training program, your education is subsidized (funded). The amount of education money depends on the job and the company. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money.

In a school-based training program, you usually can't get subsidized education.

You can submit an application for financial assistance for vocational training. There are laws about the conditions you have to meet.

You can find more information here

[What is vocational training?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

What other possibilities exist?

Retraining

Retraining is for people who want to learn a new profession or have little or no work experience in their profession. In-service retraining is organised by an educational institution. This is what makes it different to other retraining possibilities. At the end, you will take the official test for a professional degree.

You can do retraining if:

- There is an educational institute that organizes retraining,
- You can organize to work around your retraining at the educational institute,
- You can get a work permit from your Immigration Office.

What professions offer retraining?

In reality, retraining doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, retraining is shorter than vocational training. It depends on the duration of the vocational training for a profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German. Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

During retraining, you will not earn money at a company. The Employment Agency can fund retraining if you meet specific requirements. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do retraining. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufpsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

If you have a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain, it's unlikely that you will receive funding for retraining. You can still consult the Employment Agency. You will not receive any unemployment benefits but you can get some help and advice.

You can find more information here

[What is retraining?](#)

[How do I register with the Employment Agency?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufpsychologischer Service\)?](#)

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training

You have little or no practical work experience in the profession you want to learn. You are also not working in that profession yet. This option for getting a professional degree is for people who have practical work experience in the profession.

This option is available to you if:

- You find a company where you can work. The job must be in the profession you want to learn. You need a work permit from your Immigration Office.
- You get more practical work experience and then find an educational institute that organizes this option.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service modular qualification?](#)

[What is modular qualification?](#)

[What is a preparational course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Contact an advice center to know:
 - if your profession is a profession with school-based or dual training,
 - what offers exist around you
 - what offers are reasonable and possible in your current situation,
 - how to take part in an offer.
5. [You can search for an advice center here.](#)

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

09.09.2016

EA_AJCJ

You are currently working. However, you would like to get a professional degree in another profession. You haven't worked in this profession for several years. You have a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain.

By using your answers, different ways to getting a professional degree will be shown to you. These options are available to you if:

- You have found a (new) company or school for the profession in which you want to get a professional degree.

For each path, short summaries will point out the special requirements you need.

Almost all of the possibilities require a work permit from the Immigration Office.

This is the same permit that you received for your current job.

Can I Get a Residence Permit While I Have a Temporary Permission to Stay or an Exceptional Leave to Remain?

The Integration Act of 2016 has introduced new rules. If you meet specific criteria, you can get an exceptional leave to remain for the duration of your training. An exceptional leave to remain means there is a "suspension of deportation". This means that you can stay for the duration of your vocational training in Germany.

With a professional degree and a job as a specialist in your profession, you can get a residence permit for the first two years. Other possibilities aren't specifically mentioned in the law.

You can find more information here

Many legal rules exist, not all of them can be explained here. If the country you migrated from is "safe", there are additional legal rules to follow. In this case, you should also get legal advice.

[Here you can find advice centers where you can inform yourself.](#)

Do I Need a High School Diploma?

There are different laws and rules. Professions with school-based training have different rules to professions with dual training. In professions with school-based training, the law requires a high school diploma. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

For professions with dual training, the law doesn't require a high school diploma. But often, a high school diploma is expected in a company or institution. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

You can find more information here

[Here you will find more information about the laws and rules of school-based training and dual training.](#)

Vocational training

Vocational training the most common and popular way to get a professional degree in Germany.

You can do vocational retraining if:

- You can find a (new) company or a school that agrees to a vocational training contract with you. Most of the time you need to apply for this.

School-based training works differently to dual training. For example, for school-based training, usually you don't need an employment permit from the Immigration Office. For dual training, you need an employment permit. Therefore, it is important that you find help from an advice center.

How Long Will It Take?

Vocational training lasts between 2 and 3.5 years. It depends on the profession. You can also shorten your dual training if you already have professional experience, a high school diploma, or you did very well at school. You can only shorten training length in certain professions for school-based training.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in a school or in your new company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day. For this, you must meet certain requirements.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You might earn less money than you do now. In a dual training program, your education is subsidized (funded). The amount of education money depends on the job and the company. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money.

In a school-based training program, you usually can't get subsidized education.

You can submit an application for financial assistance for vocational training. There are laws about the conditions you have to meet.

You can find more information here

[What is vocational training?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

In-Service Retraining

In-service retraining is like dual training except it is shorter. At the end, you take an official test to get a professional degree.

You can take part in in-service retraining if:

- You want to learn a profession with dual training and,
- You find a new company where you can do in-service retraining. Most of the time, you will have to apply for this.
- You can get a work permit from your Immigration Office.

What professions offer in-service retraining?

In-service retraining is especially for professions with dual training. For professions with school-based training, you can rarely do in-service retraining. If you want to learn a professions with school-based training, in-service vocational training could be an option for you. However, there are several conditions to meet for in-service vocational training.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, the length of the vocational retraining depends on the length of the vocational training in that profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

In-service retraining is usually full-time. Full time means that you will learn everyday in a school/educational institution or in your company.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You might earn less money because you can get a funding for vocational training. The Employment Agency can, for example, pay for your travel expenses. You can consult the Employment Agency. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money. The Employment Agency can pay for the private school. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service retraining?](#)

[What is in-service vocational training?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

What other possibilities exist?

Retraining

Retraining is for people who want to learn a new profession or have little or no work experience in their profession. In-service retraining is different to other training possibilities because it is organised by an educational institution. At the end, you will take the official test for a professional degree.

You can do retraining if:

- There is an educational institute that organizes retraining, and
- You can organize to work around your retraining at the educational institute, and
- You can get a work permit from your Immigration Office.

What professions offer vocational retraining?

In reality, retraining doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, retraining is shorter than vocational training. It depends on the duration of the vocational training for a profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German. Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. During retraining, you will not earn money at a company. The Employment Agency can fund retraining if you meet specific requirements. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do retraining. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufropsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

With a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain, it's unlikely that you will receive funding for retraining. However, you can still contact the Employment Agency for advice.

You can find more information here

[What is retraining?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufpsychologischer Service\)?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training

You have little or no practical work experience in the profession you want to learn. You are also not working in that profession yet. This option for getting a professional degree is for people who have practical work experience in the profession.

This option is available to you if:

- You find a company where you can work. The job must be in the profession you want to learn. You need a work permit from your Immigration Office.
- You get more work experience and then find an educational institute that organizes this option.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service modular qualification?](#)

[What is modular qualification?](#)

[What is a preparational course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

What can I do now?

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 - if your profession is a profession with school-based or dual training,
 - what offers exist around you
 - what offers are reasonable and possible in your current situation,
 - how to take part in an offer.
5. [You can search for an advice center here.](#)

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

09.09.2016

EAB

You know which profession you want to learn in Germany. You have not worked in this profession for several years. You don't receive money from the Jobcenter.

By using your answers, different ways to getting a professional degree will be shown to you. These options are available to you if:

- You have found a company or school for the profession in which you want to get a professional degree.

For each path, short summaries will point out the special requirements you need.

Do I Need a High School Diploma?

There are different laws and rules. Professions with school-based training have different rules to professions with dual training. In professions with school-based training, the law requires a high school diploma. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

For professions with dual training, the law doesn't require a high school diploma. But often, a high school diploma is expected in a company or institution. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

You can find more information here

[Here you will find more information about the laws and rules of school-based training and dual training.](#)

Vocational retraining

In-service retraining is like dual training except it is shorter. At the end, you take an official test to get a professional degree.

You can take part in in-service retraining if:

- You find a company where you can do in-service retraining. Most of the time, you will have to apply for this.

What professions offer in-service retraining?

In-service retraining is especially for professions with dual training. For professions with school-based training, you can rarely do in-service retraining. If you want to learn a professions with school-based training, in-service vocational training could be an option for you. However, there are several conditions to meet for in-service vocational training.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, the length of the vocational retraining depends on the length of the vocational training in that profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

In-service retraining is usually full-time. Full time means that you will learn everyday in a school/educational institution or in your company.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You receive subsidized education (funding). The Employment Agency can, for example, pay for your travel expenses. You can consult the Employment Agency. You will not receive any unemployment benefits but you can get some help and advice. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money. The Employment Agency can pay for the private school. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service retraining?](#)

[What is in-service vocational training?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

[How do I register with the Employment Agency?](#)

Vocational training

Vocational training the most common and popular way to get a professional degree in Germany.

You can do vocational retraining if:

- You can find a company or a school that agrees to a vocational training contract with you. Most of the time you need to apply for this.

School-based vocational training works differently than a dual training. Therefore, it is important that you find help from an advice center.

How Long Will It Take?

Vocational training lasts between 2 and 3.5 years. It depends on the profession. You can also shorten your dual training if you already have professional experience, a high school diploma, or you did very well at school. You can only shorten training length in certain professions for school-based training. Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in a school or in your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day. For this, you must meet certain requirements.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

In a dual training program, your education is subsidized (funded). The amount of money you receive depends on the job and the company. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money.

In a school-based training program, you usually can't get subsidized education.

You can submit an application for financial assistance for vocational training. There are laws about the conditions you have to meet.

You can find more information here

[What is vocational training?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

What other possibilities exist?

Retraining

Retraining is for people who want to learn a new profession or have little or no work experience in their profession. In-service retraining is different to other training possibilities because it is organised by an educational institution. At the end of it, you take the official test to get a professional degree.

You can do retraining, if:

- There is an educational institute that organizes retraining.

What professions offer vocational retraining?

In reality, retraining doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, retraining is shorter than vocational training. It depends on the duration of the vocational training for a profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in a private school everyday. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German. Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

During retraining, you will not earn money at a company. The Employment Agency can fund retraining if you meet specific requirements. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You can consult the Employment Agency. You will not receive any unemployment benefits but you can get some help and advice. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do retraining. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufpsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

If your residence permit is shorter than the retraining, you should speak with the Immigration Office. Otherwise, the Jobcenter might not pay for your retraining.

You can find more information here

[What is retraining?](#)

[How do I register with the Employment Agency?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufspsychologischer Service\)?](#)

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training

You have little or no practical work experience in the profession you want to learn. You are also not working in that profession yet. This option for getting a professional degree is for people who have practical work experience in the profession.

This option is available to you if:

- you find a company where you can work. The job has to be in the profession that you want to study. Usually, you will have to apply for the job.
- You get more practical work experience and then find an educational institute that organizes this option.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service modular qualification?](#)

[What is modular qualification?](#)

[What is a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Contact an advice center to know:
 - if your profession is a profession with school-based or dual training,
 - what offers exist around you and
 - how to take part in an offer.
5. [You can search for an advice center here.](#)

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

02.09.2016

EABJ

You are currently working. However, you would like to get a professional degree in another profession. You haven't worked in this profession for several years. You don't receive any money from the Jobcenter.

By using your answers, different ways to getting a professional degree will be shown to you. These options are available to you if:

- You have found a (new) company or school for the profession in which you want to get a professional degree.

For each path, short summaries will point out the special requirements you need.

Do I Need a High School Diploma?

There are different laws and rules. Professions with school-based training have different rules to professions with dual training. In professions with school-based training, the law requires a high school diploma. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

For professions with dual training, the law doesn't require a high school diploma. But often, a high school diploma is expected in a company or institution. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

You can find more information here

[Here you will find more information about the laws and rules of school-based training and dual training.](#)

Vocational training

Vocational training the most common and popular way to get a professional degree in Germany.

You can do vocational retraining if:

- You can find a (new) company or a school that agrees to a vocational training contract with you. Most of the time you need to apply for this.

School-based vocational training works differently than a dual training. Therefore, it is important that you find help from an advice center.

How Long Will It Take?

Training lasts between 2 and 3.5 years. It depends on the profession. You can also shorten your dual training if you already have professional experience, a high school diploma, or you did very well at school. For school-based training, you can only shorten training length in certain professions.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in a school or in your new company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day. For this, you must meet certain requirements.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You might earn less money than you do now. In a dual training program, your education is subsidized (funded). The amount of money you receive depends on the job and the company. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money.

In a school-based training program, you usually can't get subsidized education.

You can submit an application for financial assistance for vocational training. There are laws about the conditions you have to meet.

You can find more information here

[What is vocational training?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

In-Service Retraining

In-service retraining is like dual training except it is shorter. At the end, you take an official test to get a professional degree.

You can take part in in-service retraining if:

- You find a new company where you can do in-service retraining. Most of the time, you will have to apply for this.

What professions offer in-service retraining?

In-service retraining is especially for professions with dual training. For professions with school-based training, you can rarely do in-service retraining. If you want to learn a professions with school-based training, in-service vocational training could be an option for you. However, there are several conditions to meet for in-service vocational training.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, the length of the vocational retraining depends on the length of the vocational training in that profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

In-service retraining is usually full-time. Full time means that you will learn everyday in a school/educational institution or in your company.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You might earn less money because you can get a funding for vocational training. The Employment Agency can, for example, pay for your travel expenses. You can consult the Employment Agency. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money. The Employment Agency can pay for the private school. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service retraining?](#)

[What is in-service vocational training?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

What other possibilities exist?

Retraining

Retraining is for people who want to learn a new profession or have little or no work experience in their profession. In-service retraining is different to other training possibilities because it is organised by an educational institution. At the end of it, you take the official test to get a professional degree.

You can do retraining, if:

- There is an educational institute that organizes retraining, and

- You can organize to work around your retraining at the educational institute.

What professions offer vocational retraining?

In reality, retraining doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, retraining is shorter than vocational training. It depends on the duration of the vocational training for a profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German. Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.

Can I Get Financial Aid?

During retraining, you will not earn money at a company. The Employment Agency can pay for retraining. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You can consult the Employment Agency. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do retraining. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree. Often, you must take a test to obtain financial support. The test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufspsychologischen service) of the Employment Agency.

If your residence permit is shorter than the retraining, you should speak with the Immigration Office. Otherwise, the Jobcenter might not pay for your retraining.

You can find more information here

[What is retraining?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufspsychologischer Service\)?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training

You have little or no practical work experience in the profession you want to learn. You are also not working in that profession yet. This option for getting a professional degree is for people who have practical work experience in the profession.

This option is available to you if:

- You find a company you can work for. The job has to be in the profession you want to learn.
- You get more work experience and then find an educational institute that organizes this option.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training.

You can find more information here

[What is modular qualification?](#)

[What is a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

What can I do now?

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3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Contact an advice center to know:
 - if your profession is a profession with school-based or dual training,
 - what offers exist around you and
 - how you can take part in an offer.
5. [You can search for an advice center here.](#)

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

14.09.2016

EABJC

You know which profession you want to learn in Germany. You have not worked in this profession for several years. You receive money from the Jobcenter.

By using your answers, different ways to getting a professional degree will be shown to you. The first way probably best suits your experience and your professional situation. If this doesn't work for you, there are other possibilities. For each path, short summaries will point out the special requirements you need.

Do I Need a High School Diploma?

There are different laws and rules. Professions with school-based training have different rules to professions with dual training. In professions with school-based training, the law requires a high school diploma. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

For professions with dual training, the law doesn't require a high school diploma. But often, a high school diploma is expected in a company or institution. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

You can find more information here

[Here you will find more information about the laws and rules of school-based training and dual training.](#)

Retraining

Retraining is for people who want to learn a new profession or have little or no work experience in their profession. In-service retraining is different to other training possibilities because it is organised by an educational institution. At the end of it, you take the official test to get a professional degree.

You can do retraining, if:

- There is an educational institute that organizes retraining.

What professions offer retraining?

In reality, retraining doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, retraining is shorter than vocational training. It depends on the duration of the vocational training for a profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German. Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

During retraining, you will not earn money at a company. You will receive more money from the Jobcenter. The Jobcenter can pay for your retraining. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do retraining. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufspychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

If your residence permit is shorter than the retraining, you should speak with the Immigration Office. Otherwise, the Jobcenter might not pay for your retraining.

You can find more information here

[What is retraining?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufspychologischer Service\)?](#)

What other possibilities exist?

In-Service Retraining

In-service retraining is like dual training except it is shorter. At the end, you take an official test to get a professional degree.

You can take part in in-service retraining if:

- You find a company where you can do in-service retraining. Most of the time, you will have to apply for this.

What professions offer in-service retraining?

In-service retraining is especially for professions with dual training. For professions with school-based training, you can rarely do in-service retraining. If you want to learn a professions with school-based training, in-service vocational training could be an option for you. However, there are several conditions to meet for in-service vocational training.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, the length of the vocational retraining depends on the length of the vocational training in that profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

In-service retraining is usually full-time. Full time means that you will learn everyday in a school/educational institution or in your company.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You receive subsidized education. You will receive more money from the Jobcenter. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money. The Jobcenter can pay for private schools. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service retraining?](#)

[What is in-service vocational training?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

Vocational training

Vocational training the most common and popular way to get a professional degree in Germany.

You can do vocational retraining if:

- You can find a company or a school that agrees to a vocational training contract with you. Most of the time you need to apply for this.

School-based vocational training works differently than a dual training. Therefore, it is important that you find help from an advice center.

How Long Will It Take?

Training lasts between 2 and 3.5 years. It depends on the profession. You can also shorten your dual training if you already have professional experience, a high school diploma, or you did very well at school. You can only shorten training length in certain professions for school-based training.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in a school or in your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day. For this, you must meet certain requirements.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

In a dual training program, your education is subsidized (funded). The amount of money you receive depends on the job and the company. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money.

In a school-based training program, you usually can't get subsidized education.

You can submit an application for financial assistance for vocational training. There are laws about the conditions you have to meet. If financial support isn't an option, you can receive money from the Jobcenter. It is very important that you talk to your Jobcenter first.

You can find more information here

[What is vocational training?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

What other possibilities exist?

The following possibilities are only available if you find a job in the profession that you want a professional degree in. You should speak to your Jobcenter.

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training

You have little or no practical work experience in the profession you want to learn. You are also not working in that profession yet. This option for getting a professional degree is for people who have practical work experience in the profession.

This option is available to you if:

- you find a company where you can work. The job has to be in the profession that you want to study. Usually, you will have to apply for the job.
- You get more practical work experience and then find an educational institute that organizes this option.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service modular qualification?](#)

[What is modular qualification?](#)

[What is a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

What can I do now?

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3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Contact an advice center to know:
 - if your profession is a profession with school-based or dual training,
 - what offers exist around you and
 - how you can take part in an offer.
5. [You can search for an advice center here.](#)

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

26.08.2016

EABJJC

You are currently working. However, you would like to get a professional degree in another profession. You haven't worked in this profession for several years. You receive money from the Jobcenter.

By using your answers, different ways to getting a professional degree will be shown to you. The first way probably best suits your experience and your professional situation. If this doesn't work for you, there are other possibilities. For each path, short summaries will point out the special requirements you need.

Do I Need a High School Diploma?

There are different laws and rules. Professions with school-based training have different rules to professions with dual training. In professions with school-based training, the law requires a high school diploma. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

For professions with dual training, the law doesn't require a high school diploma. But often, a high school diploma is expected in a company or institution. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

You can find more information here

[Here you will find more information about the laws and rules of school-based training and dual training.](#)

Retraining

Retraining is for people who want to learn a new profession or have little or no work experience in their profession. In-service retraining is different to other training possibilities because it is organised by an educational institution. At the end of it, you take the official test to get a professional degree.

You can do retraining, if:

- There is an educational institute that organizes retraining, and
- You can organize to work around your retraining at the educational institute.

What professions offer vocational retraining?

In reality, retraining doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, retraining is shorter than vocational training. It depends on the duration of the vocational training for a profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German. Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. You will receive more money from the Jobcenter. You should talk to your Jobcenter about how you can combine your retraining and your job. The Jobcenter can pay for your retraining. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do retraining. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufpsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

If your residence permit is shorter than the retraining, you should speak with the Immigration Office. Otherwise, the Jobcenter might not pay for your retraining.

You can find more information here

[What is retraining?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufpsychologischer Service\)?](#)

What other possibilities exist?

The following possibilities are available to you if:

- You have found a company or school for the profession in which you want to get a professional degree.

Speak to your Jobcenter

In-Service Retraining

In-service retraining is like dual training except it is shorter. At the end, you take an official test to get a professional degree.

You can take part in in-service retraining if:

- You find a (new) company where you can do in-service retraining. Most of the time, you will have to apply for this.

What professions offer in-service retraining?

In-service retraining is especially for professions with dual training. For professions with school-based training, you can rarely do in-service retraining. If you want to learn a professions with school-based training, in-service vocational training could be an option for you. However, there are several conditions to meet for in-service vocational training.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, the length of the vocational retraining depends on the length of the vocational training in that profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

In-service retraining is usually full-time. Full time means that you will learn everyday in a school/educational institution or in your (new) company.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You might earn less money because you can get a funding for vocational training. You will receive more money from the Jobcenter. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money. The Jobcenter can pay for private schools. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service retraining?](#)

[What is in-service vocational training?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

Vocational training

Vocational training the most common and popular way to get a professional degree in Germany.

You can do vocational retraining if:

- You can find a (new) company or a school that agrees to a vocational training contract with you. Most of the time you need to apply for this.

School-based vocational training works differently than a dual training. Therefore, it is important that you find help from an advice center.

How Long Will It Take?

Vocational training lasts between 2 and 3.5 years. It depends on the profession. You can also shorten your dual training if you already have professional experience, a high school diploma, or you did very well at school. You can only shorten training length in certain professions for school-based training.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in a school every day or in your (new) company. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day. For this, you must meet certain requirements.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You might earn less money than you do now. In a dual training program, your education is subsidized (funded). The amount of money you receive depends on the job and the company. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money.

In a school-based training program, you usually can't get subsidized education.

You can submit an application for financial assistance for vocational training. There are laws about the conditions you have to meet. If financial support isn't an option, you can receive money from the Jobcenter. It is very important that you talk to your Jobcenter first.

You can find more information here

[What is vocational training?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

The following possibilities are only available if you find a job in the profession that you want a professional degree in. You should speak to your Jobcenter.

What other possibilities exist?

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training

You have little or no practical work experience in the profession you want to learn. You are also not working in that profession yet. This option for getting a professional degree is for people who have practical work experience in the profession.

This option is available to you if:

- You find a company where you can work. The job has to be in the profession that you want to study. Usually, you will have to apply for the job.
- You get more practical work experience and then find an educational institute that organizes this option.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service modular qualification?](#)

[What is modular qualification?](#)

[What is a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.

4. Contact an advice center to know:
 - if your profession is a profession with school-based or dual training,
 - what offers exist around you and
 - how you can take part in an offer.
5. [You can search for an advice center here.](#)

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

02.09.2016

NQ_AC

You have worked for several years in the profession that you want to learn. You have a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain.

By using your answers, different ways to getting a professional degree will be shown to you. The first way probably best suits your experience and your professional situation. If this doesn't work for you, there are other possibilities.

For each path, short summaries will point out the special requirements you need.

Almost all of the possibilities require a work permit from the Immigration Office.

This is a document from the Immigration Office that gives you permission to work. If you have lived in Germany for 3 to 6 months, you can usually get an employment permit.

Many legal rules exist, not all of them can be explained here. If the country you migrated from is "safe", there are additional legal rules to follow. In this case, you should get legal advice.

Can I Get a Residence Permit While I Have a Temporary Permission to Stay or an Exceptional Leave to Remain?

The Integration Act of 2016 has introduced new rules. If you meet specific criteria, you can get an exceptional leave to remain for the duration of your training. An exceptional leave to remain means there is a "suspension of deportation". This means that you can stay for the duration of your vocational training in Germany.

With a professional degree and a job as a specialist in your profession, you can get a residence permit for the first two years. Other possibilities aren't specifically mentioned in the law.

You can find more information here

[Here you can find advice centers where you can inform yourself.](#)

Do I Need a High School Diploma?

There are different laws and rules. Professions with school-based training have different rules to professions with dual training. In professions with school-based training, the law requires a high school diploma. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

For professions with dual training, the law doesn't require a high school diploma. But often, a high school diploma is expected in a company or institution. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

You can find more information here

[Here you will find more information about the laws and rules of school-based training and dual training.](#)

Modular Qualification

Modular qualification means that you are still learning the theoretical content and the practical skills that you need for the final exam. If your exam is successful, this leads to you getting your professional degree.

You can take modular qualification, if:

- There is an educational institute that organizes modular qualification,
- You can get a work permit from your Immigration Office.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training. Therefore, it is important that you go to an advice center for more information and help.

What professions offer modular qualification?

In reality, modular qualification doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

In professions with dual training duration is dependent on your existing professional experience and your professional knowledge. A modular qualification course consists of modules. You can often also attend individual modules. You can only get a professional degree if you complete all of the necessary modules and successfully pass the final exam.

For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2.

It always depends on the profession and the offer.

Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

During retraining, you will not earn money at a company. The Employment Agency can fund modular qualification if you meet specific requirements. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do modular qualification. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufpsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

If you have a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain, it's unlikely that you will receive funding for modular qualification.

If you're not registered at the Employment Agency yet, you can still do that. You won't receive any unemployment benefits but you can get advice from them.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is modular qualification?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufpsychologischer Service\)?](#)

[How do I register with the Employment Agency?](#)

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training is a course, after which you can take the official exam for a professional degree. In jobs with school-based training, the external exam for school-based training is often the same as the external exam for dual vocational training.

You can prepare for either external exam, if:

- You have worked in the profession for several years
- There is an educational institute that organizes preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training,
- The relevant authorities agree to it. The relevant authority is the institution that is responsible for the exams for your profession,

What professions have preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?

In reality, preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training do only exist for certain professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. It can also be because there aren't enough people interested in a profession.

How Long Will It Take?

The duration can vary. It depends on the profession and the course. In professions with dual training, it can take up to 6 months. It can take more than 1 year in professions with school-based training.

Many offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in the educational institute every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to learn a lot of theory in a short period of time. You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It always depends on the profession and offer.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

During retraining, you will not earn money at a company. If you meet specific requirements, the Employment Agency can fund the preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You can consult the Employment Agency. You will not receive any unemployment benefits but you can get some help and advice. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree. This also means that you can get a work permit from your Immigration Office.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?](#)

[How do I register with the Employment Agency?](#)

What other possibilities exist?

This option is available to you if:

- You have found a company or school for the profession in which you want to get a professional degree.

In-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training

In-service training means you will work and at the same time, you will study the theory that you still need to learn at an educational institution. At the end, you will take the official test for a professional degree. Professions with school-based training are usually in-service vocational training. Professions with dual training are usually in-service modular qualifications.

You can do in-service modular qualification / in-service vocational training if:

- You find a company where you can work and where you are subject to social security contributions (sozialversicherungspflichtig). The job has to be in the profession that you want to study. Usually, you will have to apply for the job,
- You can get a work permit from your Immigration Office,
- You talk to your boss about your plans and,
- You have found an educational institute that organizes in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training and,

In what occupations are there in-service modular qualification / in-service vocational training?

In reality, in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

In professions with dual training duration is dependent on your professional experience and your professional knowledge.

For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Generally, you study for 2 days a week in an educational institute and the other days of the week you work for your company.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2.

It always depends on the profession and the offer.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. If you meet specific requirements, the Employment Agency can fund your in-service modular qualification / in-service vocational training. A program for financing in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training is called WeGebAU.

However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You can consult the Employment Agency. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training. Often, you must take a test to obtain financial support. The test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufspsychologischen service) of the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufspsychologischer Service\)?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

In-Service Retraining

In-service retraining is like dual training except it is shorter. At the end, you take an official test to get a professional degree.

You can take part in in-service retraining if:

- You find a company where you can do in-service retraining. Most of the time, you will have to apply for this.
- You can get a work permit from your Immigration Office.

What professions offer in-service retraining?

In-service retraining is especially for professions with dual training. For professions with school-based education, in-service retraining is rarely available.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, the length of the vocational retraining depends on the length of the vocational training in that profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

In-service retraining is usually full-time. Full time means that you will study in a school/educational institution or in your company everyday.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You receive subsidized education. The Employment Agency can, for example, also pay for your travel expenses. You can consult the Employment Agency. You will not receive any unemployment benefits but you can get some help and advice. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money. The Employment Agency can pay for the private school. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service retraining?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

[How do I register with the Employment Agency?](#)

Vocational training

Vocational training is the most common and popular way to get a professional degree in Germany.

You can do vocational retraining if:

- You can find a company or a school that agrees to a vocational training contract with you. Most of the time you need to apply for this.

School-based training works differently to dual training. For example, for school-based training, usually you don't need an employment permit from the Immigration Office. For dual training, you need an employment permit. Therefore, it is important that you get help from an advice center.

How Long Will It Take?

Vocational training lasts between 2 and 3.5 years. It depends on the profession. You can also shorten your dual training if you already have professional experience, a high school diploma, or you did very well at school. For school-based training, you can only shorten training length in certain professions.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in a school or in your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day. For this, you must meet certain requirements.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

In a dual training program, your education is subsidized (funded). The amount of money you receive depends on the job and the company. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money.

In a school-based training program, you usually can't get subsidized education.

You can submit an application for financial assistance for vocational training. There are laws about the conditions you have to meet.

You can find more information here

[What is vocational training?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

What other possibilities exist?

Retraining

Retraining is for people who want to learn a new profession. Retraining is also a possibility for you if an assessment has shown that you have less professional experience than what is needed for the other possibilities or that these other possibilities aren't available in your region. In-service retraining is different to other training possibilities because it is organised by an educational institution. At the end of it, you take the official test to get a professional degree.

You can do retraining, if:

- There is an educational institute that organizes retraining, and
- You can get a work permit from your Immigration Office.

What professions offer retraining?

In reality, retraining doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, retraining is shorter than vocational training. It depends on the duration of the vocational training for a profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German. Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

During retraining, you will not earn money at a company. The Employment Agency can fund retraining if you meet specific requirements. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do retraining. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufspsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

If you have a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain, it's unlikely that you will receive funding for retraining. You can still consult the Employment Agency. You will not receive any unemployment benefits but you can get some help and advice.

You can find more information here

[What is retraining?](#)

[How do I register with the Employment Agency?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufspsychologischer Service\)?](#)

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Contact an advice center to know:
 - if your profession is a profession with school-based or dual training,
 - what offers exist around you
 - what offers are reasonable and possible in your current situation,
 - how to take part in an offer.
5. [You can search for an advice center here.](#)

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

09.09.2016

NQ_AJCJ

You have worked for several years in the profession that you want to learn. You are currently working but you want to get a professional qualification in a different profession.

You have a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain.

By using your answers, different ways to getting a professional degree will be shown to you. The first way probably best suits your experience and your professional situation. If this doesn't work for you, there are other possibilities. For each path, short summaries will point out the special requirements you need.

Almost all of the possibilities require a work permit from the Immigration Office.

This is the same permit that you received for your current job.

Can I Get a Residence Permit While I Have a Temporary Permission to Stay or an Exceptional Leave to Remain?

The Integration Act of 2016 has introduced new rules. If you meet specific criteria, you can get an exceptional leave to remain for the duration of your training. An exceptional leave to remain means there is a "suspension of deportation". This means that you can stay for the duration of your vocational training in Germany.

With a professional degree and a job as a specialist in your profession, you can get a residence permit for the first two years. Other possibilities aren't specifically mentioned in the law.

You can find more information here

Many legal rules exist, not all of them can be explained here. If the country you migrated from is "[safe](#)", there are additional legal rules to follow. In this case, you should get legal advice.

[Here you can find advice centers where you can inform yourself.](#)

Do I Need a High School Diploma?

There are different laws and rules. Professions with school-based training have different rules to professions with dual training. In professions with school-based training, the law requires a high school diploma. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

For professions with dual training, the law doesn't require a high school diploma. But often, a high school diploma is expected in a company or institution. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

You can find more information here

Here you will find more information about the laws and rules of school-based training and dual training.

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training is a course, after which you can take the official exam for a professional degree. In jobs with school-based training, the external exam for school-based training is often the same as the external exam for dual vocational training.

You can prepare for either external exam, if:

- You have worked in the profession for several years,
- There is an educational institute that organizes preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training,
- The relevant authorities agree to it. The relevant authority is the institution that is responsible for the exams for your profession,
- You can organize to work around the preparatory course for the external exam of your choice.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training. Therefore, it is important that you go to an advice center for more information and help.

What professions have preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?

In reality, preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training do only exist for certain professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

The duration can vary. It depends on the profession and the course. In professions with dual training, it can take up to 6 months. It can take more than 1 year in professions with school-based training.

Many offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in the educational institute every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to learn a lot of theory in a short period of time. You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It always depends on the profession and offer.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. If you meet specific requirements, the Employment Agency can fund the preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You can consult the Employment Agency. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

Modular Qualification

Modular qualification means that you are still learning the theoretical content and the practical skills that you need for the final exam. If your exam is successful, this leads to you getting your professional degree.

You can take modular qualification, if:

- There is an educational institute that organizes modular qualification,
- You can organize to work around your modular qualification course at the educational institute.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training. Therefore, it is important that you go to an advice center for more information and help.

What professions offer modular qualification?

In reality, modular qualification doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

In professions with dual training duration is dependent on your existing professional experience and your professional knowledge. A modular qualification consists of modules. Often, you can also attend individual modules. You can only get a professional degree if you complete all of the necessary modules and successfully pass the final exam.

For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2.

It always depends on the profession and the offer.

Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. During modular qualification, you will not earn money at a company. The Employment Agency can fund modular qualification if you meet specific requirements. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do modular qualification. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufpsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

With a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain, it's unlikely that you will receive funding for modular qualification. However, you can still contact the Employment Agency for advice.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is modular qualification?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufpsychologischer Service\)?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

What other possibilities exist?

This option is available to you if:

- You have found a (new) company for the profession in which you want to get a professional degree.

In-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training

In-service training means you will work and at the same time, you will study the theory that you still need to learn at an educational institution. At the end of it, you take the official test to get a professional degree. Professions with school-based training are usually in-service vocational training. Professions with dual training are usually in-service modular qualifications.

You can do in-service modular qualification / in-service vocational training if:

- You find a (new) company where you can work and where you are subject to social security contributions (sozialversicherungspflichtig). The job has to be in the profession that you want to study. Usually, you will have to apply for the job,
- You talk to your boss about your plans,
- You have found an educational institute that organizes in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training and,
- You can get a work permit from your Immigration Office.

What professions offer in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training?

In reality, in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

In professions with dual training duration is dependent on your professional experience and your professional knowledge.

For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Generally, you study for 2 days a week in an educational institute and the other days of the week you work for your company.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2. It always depends on the profession and offer.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. If you meet specific requirements, the Employment Agency can fund your in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training. A program for financing in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training is called WeGebAU. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You can consult the Employment Agency. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training. Often, you must take a test to obtain financial support. The test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufspychologischen service) of the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufspychologischer Service\)?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

In-Service Retraining

In-service retraining is like dual training except it is shorter. At the end, you take an official test to get a professional degree.

You can take part in in-service retraining if:

- You find a (new) company where you can do in-service retraining. Most of the time, you will have to apply for this.
- You can get a work permit from your Immigration Office.

What professions offer in-service retraining?

In-service retraining is especially for professions with dual training. For professions with school-based education, in-service retraining is rarely available.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, the length of the vocational retraining depends on the length of the vocational training in that profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

In-service retraining is usually full-time. Full time means that you will learn everyday in a school/educational institution or in your (new) company.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You might earn less money than you do now. You receive subsidized education. The Employment Agency can, for example, pay for your travel expenses. You can consult the Employment Agency. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money. The Employment Agency can pay for the private school. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service retraining?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

Vocational training

Vocational training the most common and popular way to get a professional degree in Germany.

You can do vocational retraining if:

- You can find a (new) company or a school that agrees to a vocational training contract with you. Most of the time you need to apply for this.

School-based training works differently to dual training. For example, for school-based training, usually you don't need an employment permit from the Immigration Office. For dual training, you need an employment permit. Therefore, it is important that you get help from an advice center.

How Long Will It Take?

Vocational training lasts between 2 and 3.5 years. It depends on the profession. You can also shorten your dual training if you already have professional experience, a high school diploma, or you did very well at school. For school-based training, you can only shorten training length in certain professions.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in a school every day or in your (new) company. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day. For this, you must meet certain requirements.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You might earn less money than you do now. In a dual training program, your education is subsidized (funded). The amount of money you receive depends on the job and the company. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money.

In a school-based training program, you usually can't get subsidized education.

You can submit an application for financial assistance for vocational training. There are laws about the conditions you have to meet.

You can find more information here

[What is vocational training?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

What other possibilities exist?

Retraining

Retraining is for people who want to learn a new profession. Retraining is also a possibility for you if an assessment has shown that you have less professional experience than what is needed for the other possibilities or that these other possibilities aren't available in your region. In-service retraining is different to other training possibilities because it is organised by an educational institution. At the end of it, you take the official test to get a professional degree.

You can do retraining, if:

- There is an educational institute that organizes retraining,
- You can organize to work around your retraining at the educational institute, and
- You can get a work permit from your Immigration Office.

What professions offer vocational retraining?

In reality, retraining doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, retraining is shorter than vocational training. It depends on the duration of the vocational training for a profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German. Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. During retraining, you will not earn money at a company. The Employment Agency can fund retraining if you meet specific requirements. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do retraining. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufspsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

With a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain, it's unlikely that you will receive funding for retraining. However, you can still contact the Employment Agency for advice.

You can find more information here

[What is retraining?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufspsychologischer Service\)?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Contact an advice center to know:
 - if your profession is a profession with school-based or dual training,
 - what offers exist around you
 - what offers are reasonable and possible in your current situation,
 - how to take part in an offer.
5. [You can search for an advice center here.](#)

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

09.09.2016

NQB

You have worked for several years in the profession that you want to learn. You don't receive money from the Jobcenter.

By using your answers, different ways to getting a professional degree will be shown to you. The first way probably best suits your experience and your professional situation. If this doesn't work for you, there are other possibilities. For each path, short summaries will point out the special requirements you need.

Do I Need a High School Diploma?

There are different laws and rules. Professions with school-based training have different rules to professions with dual training. In professions with school-based training, the law requires a high school diploma. The type of diploma depends on the profession. For professions with dual training, the law doesn't require a high school diploma. But often, a high school diploma is expected in a company or institution. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

You can find more information here

[Here you will find more information about the laws and rules of school-based training and dual training.](#)

Modular Qualification

Modular qualification means that you are still learning the theoretical content and the practical skills that you need for the final exam. If your exam is successful, this leads to you getting your professional degree.

You can take modular qualification, if:

- there is an educational institute that organizes modular qualification,

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training. Therefore, it is important that you go to an advice center for more information and help.

What professions offer modular qualification?

In reality, modular qualification doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

In professions with dual training duration is dependent on your existing professional experience and your professional knowledge. A modular qualification consists of modules. Often, you can also attend individual modules. You can only get a professional degree if you complete all of the necessary modules and successfully pass the final exam.

For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2.

It always depends on the profession and offer.

Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

During retraining, you will not earn money at a company. The Employment Agency can fund modular qualification if you meet specific requirements. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You can consult the Employment Agency. You will not receive any unemployment benefits but you can get some help and advice. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do modular qualification. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufpsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is modular qualification?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufpsychologischer Service\)?](#)

[How do I register with the Employment Agency?](#)

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training is a course, after which you can take the official exam for a professional degree. In jobs with school-based training, the external exam for school-based training is often the same as the external exam for dual vocational training.

You can prepare for either external exam, if:

- You have worked in the profession for several years,
- There is an educational institute that organizes preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training,
- The relevant authorities agree to it. The relevant authority is the institution that is responsible for the exams for your profession,

What professions have preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?

In reality, preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training do only exist for certain professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. It can also be because there aren't enough people interested in a profession.

How Long Will It Take?

The duration can vary. It depends on the profession and the course. In professions with dual training, it can take up to 6 months. It can take more than 1 year in professions with school-based training.

Many offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in the educational institute every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to learn a lot of theory in a short period of time. You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It always depends on the profession and offer.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

During retraining, you will not earn money at a company. If you meet specific requirements, the Employment Agency can fund the preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You can consult the Employment Agency. You will not receive any unemployment benefits but you can get some help and advice. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?](#)

[How do I register with the Employment Agency?](#)

What other possibilities exist?

This option is available to you if:

- You have found a company or school for the profession in which you want to get a professional degree.

In-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training

In-service training means you will work and at the same time, you will study the theory that you still need to learn at an educational institution. At the end, you will take the official test for a professional degree. Professions with school-based training are usually in-service vocational training. Professions with dual training are usually in-service modular qualifications.

You can do in-service modular qualification / in-service vocational training if:

- You find a company where you can work and where you are subject to social security contributions (sozialversicherungspflichtig). The job has to be in the profession that you want to study. Usually, you will have to apply for the job,
- You talk to your boss about your plans and,
- You have found an educational institute that organizes in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training and,

What professions offer in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training?

In reality, in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

In professions with dual training duration is dependent on your professional experience and your professional knowledge.

For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Generally, you study for 2 days a week in an educational institute and the other days of the week you work for your company.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2.

It always depends on the profession and offer.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. If you meet specific requirements, the Employment Agency can fund your in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training. A program for financing in-service modular qualification / in-service vocational training is called WeGebAU. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You can consult the Employment Agency. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training. Often, you must take a test to obtain financial support. The test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufspsychologischer Service service) of the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufspsychologischer Service\)?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

In-Service Retraining

In-service retraining is like dual training except it is shorter. At the end, you take an official test to get a professional degree.

You can take part in in-service retraining if:

- You find a company where you can do in-service retraining. Most of the time, you will have to apply for this.

What professions offer in-service retraining?

In-service retraining is especially for professions with dual training. For professions with school-based education, in-service retraining is rarely available.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, the length of the vocational retraining depends on the length of the vocational training in that profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

In-service retraining is usually full-time. Full time means that you will study in a school/educational institution or in your company everyday.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You receive subsidized education. The Employment Agency can, for example, also pay for your travel expenses. You can consult the Employment Agency. You will not receive any unemployment benefits but you can get some help and advice. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money. The Employment Agency can pay for the private school. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service retraining?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

[How do I register with the Employment Agency?](#)

Vocational training

Vocational training the most common and popular way to get a professional degree in Germany.

You can do vocational retraining if:

- You can find a company or a school that agrees to a vocational training contract with you.

School-based vocational training works differently than a dual training. Therefore, it is important that you find help from an advice center.

How Long Will It Take?

Vocational training lasts between 2 and 3.5 years. It depends on the profession. You can also shorten your dual training if you already have professional experience, a high school diploma, or you did very well at school. You can only shorten training length in certain professions for school-based training.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in a school or in your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day. For this, you must meet certain requirements.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

In a dual training program, your education is subsidized (funded). The amount of money you receive depends on the job and the company. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money.

In a school-based training program, you usually can't get subsidized education.

You can submit an application for financial assistance for vocational training. There are laws about the conditions you have to meet.

You can find more information here

[What is vocational training?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

What other possibilities exist?

Retraining

Retraining is for people who want to learn a new profession. Retraining is also a possibility for you if an assessment has shown that you have less professional experience than what is needed for the other possibilities or that these other possibilities aren't available in your region. In-service retraining is different to other training possibilities because it is organised by an educational institution. At the end of it, you take the official test to get a professional degree.

You can do retraining, if:

- There is an educational institute that organizes retraining.

What professions offer vocational retraining?

In reality, retraining doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, retraining is shorter than vocational training. It depends on the duration of the vocational training for a profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German. Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

During retraining, you will not earn money at a company. The Employment Agency can pay for retraining. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You can consult the Employment Agency. You will not receive any unemployment benefits but you can get some help and advice. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do retraining. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufspsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

If your residence permit is shorter than the retraining, you should speak with the Immigration Office. Otherwise, the Jobcenter might not pay for your retraining.

You can find more information here

[What is retraining?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufspsychologischer Service\)?](#)

[How do I register with the Employment Agency?](#)

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Contact an advice center to know:
 - if your profession is a profession with school-based or dual training,
 - what offers exist around you and
 - how you can take part in an offer.
5. [You can search for an advice center here.](#)

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

14.09.2016

NQBJ

You have worked for several years in the profession that you want to learn. You are currently working but you want to get a professional qualification in a different profession. You don't receive money from the Jobcenter.

By using your answers, different ways to getting a professional degree will be shown to you. The first way probably best suits your experience and your professional situation. If this doesn't work for you, there are other possibilities. For each path, short summaries will point out the special requirements you need.

Do I Need a High School Diploma?

There are different laws and rules. Professions with school-based training have different rules to professions with dual training. In professions with school-based training, the law requires a high school diploma. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

For professions with dual training, the law doesn't require a high school diploma. But often, a high school diploma is expected in a company or institution. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

You can find more information here

[Here you will find more information about the laws and rules of school-based training and dual training.](#)

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training is a course, after which you can take the official exam for a professional degree. In jobs with school-based training, the external exam for school-based training is often the same as the external exam for dual vocational training.

You can prepare for either external exam, if:

- You have worked in the profession for several years,
- There is an educational institute that organizes preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training,
- The relevant authorities agree to it. The relevant authority is the institution that is responsible for the exams for your profession,
- You can organize to work around the preparatory course for the external exam of your choice.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training. Therefore, it is important that you go to an advice center for more information and help.

What professions have preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?

In reality, preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training do only exist for certain professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

The duration can vary. It depends on the profession and the course. In professions with dual training, it can take up to 6 months. It can take more than 1 year in professions with school-based training.

Many offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in the educational institute every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to learn a lot of theory in a short period of time. You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It always depends on the profession and the offer.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. If you meet specific requirements, the Employment Agency can fund the preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You can consult the Employment Agency. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

What is a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?

What does the Employment Agency do?

Modular Qualification

Modular qualification means that you are still learning the theoretical content and the practical skills that you need for the final exam. If your exam is successful, this leads to you getting your professional degree.

You can take modular qualification, if:

- There is an educational institute that organizes modular qualification,
- You can organize to work around your modular qualification course at the educational institute.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training. Therefore, it is important that you go to an advice center for more information and help.

What professions offer modular qualification?

In reality, modular qualification doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

In professions with dual training duration is dependent on your existing professional experience and your professional knowledge. A modular qualification consists of modules. Often, you can also attend individual modules. You can only get a professional degree if you complete all of the necessary modules and successfully pass the final exam.

For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2.

It always depends on the profession and the offer.

Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. The Employment Agency can fund modular qualification if you meet specific requirements. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You can consult the Employment Agency. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do modular qualification. Often, you must take a test to obtain financial support. The test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufspychologischer Service service) of the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is modular qualification?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufspychologischer Service\)?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

What other possibilities exist?

This option is available to you if:

- You have found a (new) company or school for the profession in which you want to get a professional degree.

In-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training

In-service training means you will work and at the same time, you will study the theory that you still need to learn at an educational institution. At the end of it, you take the official test to get a professional degree. Professions with school-based training are usually in-service vocational training. Professions with dual training are usually in-service modular qualifications.

You can do in-service modular qualification / in-service vocational training if:

- You find a (new) company where you can work and where you are subject to social security contributions (sozialversicherungspflichtig). The job has to be in the profession that you want to study. Usually, you will have to apply for the job,
- You talk to your boss about your plans and,

- You have found an educational institute that organizes in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training and,

What professions offer in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training?

In reality, in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

In professions with dual training duration is dependent on your professional experience and your professional knowledge.

For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Generally, you study for 2 days a week in an educational institute and the other days of the week you work for your company.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2. It always depends on the profession and offer.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. If you meet specific requirements, the Employment Agency can fund your in-service modular qualification / in-service vocational training. A program for financing in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training is called WeGebAU. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You can consult the Employment Agency. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training. Often, you must take a test to obtain financial support. The test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufpsychologischer Service service) of the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training?](#)

What is the psychological service for employment (Berufspsychologischer Service)?

What is an application?

What does the Employment Agency do?

In-Service Retraining

In-service retraining is like dual training except it is shorter. At the end, you take an official test to get a professional degree.

You can take part in in-service retraining if:

- You find a (new) company where you can do in-service retraining. Most of the time, you will have to apply for this.

What professions offer in-service retraining?

In-service retraining is especially for professions with dual training. For professions with school-based education, in-service retraining is rarely available.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, the length of the vocational retraining depends on the length of the vocational training in that profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

In-service retraining is usually full-time. Full time means that you will learn everyday in a school/educational institution or in your (new) company.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You might earn less money because you can get a funding for vocational training. The Employment Agency can, for example, pay for your travel expenses. You can consult the Employment Agency. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money. The Employment Agency can pay for the private school. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service retraining?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

Vocational training

Vocational training the most common and popular way to get a professional degree in Germany.

You can do vocational retraining if:

- You can find a (new) company or a school that agrees to a vocational training contract with you. Most of the time you need to apply for this.

School-based vocational training works differently than dual vocational training. Therefore, it is important that you find help from an advice center.

How Long Will It Take?

Training lasts between 2 and 3.5 years. It depends on the profession. You can also shorten your dual training if you already have professional experience, a high school diploma, or you did very well at school. You can only shorten training length in certain professions for school-based training.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in a school every day or in your (new) company. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day. For this, you must meet certain requirements.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You might earn less money than you do now. In a dual training program, your education is subsidized (funded). The amount of money you receive depends on the job and the company. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money.

In a school-based training program, you usually can't get subsidized education.

You can submit an application for financial assistance for vocational training. There are laws about the conditions you have to meet.

You can find more information here

[What is vocational training?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

What other possibilities exist?

Retraining

Retraining is for people who want to learn a new profession. Retraining is also a possibility for you if an assessment has shown that you have less professional experience than what is needed for the other possibilities or that these other possibilities aren't available in your region. In-service retraining is different to other training possibilities because it is organised by an educational institution. At the end of it, you take the official test to get a professional degree.

You can do retraining, if:

- There is an educational institute that organizes retraining, and you work less or can organize to work around your retraining at the educational institute.

What professions offer vocational retraining?

In reality, retraining doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, retraining is shorter than vocational training. It depends on the duration of the vocational training for a profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German. Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. During retraining, you will not earn money at a company. The Employment Agency can pay for retraining. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You can consult the Employment Agency. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do retraining.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufspsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

If your residence permit is shorter than the retraining, you should speak with the Immigration Office. Otherwise, the Jobcenter might not pay for your retraining.

You can find more information here

[What is retraining?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufspsychologischer Service\)?](#)

[What does the Employment Agency do?](#)

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Contact an advice center to know:
 - if your profession is a profession with school-based or dual training,
 - what offers exist around you and
 - how you can take part in an offer.
5. [You can search for an advice center here.](#)

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

14.09.2016

NQBJC

You have worked for several years in the profession that you want to learn. You receive money from the Jobcenter.

By using your answers, different ways to getting a professional degree will be shown to you. The first way probably best suits your experience and your professional situation. If this doesn't work for you, there are other possibilities. For each path, short summaries will point out the special requirements you need.

Do I Need a High School Diploma?

There are different laws and rules. Professions with school-based training have different rules to professions with dual training. In professions with school-based training, the law requires a high school diploma. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

For professions with dual training, the law doesn't require a high school diploma. But often, a high school diploma is expected in a company or institution. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

You can find more information here

[Here you will find more information about the laws and rules of school-based training and dual training.](#)

Modular Qualification

Modular qualification means that you are still learning the theoretical content and the practical skills that you need for the final exam. If your exam is successful, this leads to you getting your professional degree.

You can take modular qualification, if:

- there is an educational institute that organizes modular qualification,

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training. Therefore, it is important that you go to an advice center for more information and help.

What professions offer modular qualification?

In reality, modular qualification doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

In professions with dual training duration is dependent on your existing professional experience and your professional knowledge. A modular qualification consists of modules. Often, you can also attend individual modules. You can only get a professional degree if you complete all of the necessary modules and successfully pass the final exam.

For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at a company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2.

It always depends on the profession and offer.

Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

During retraining, you will not earn money at a company. You will receive more money from the Jobcenter. The Jobcenter can pay for your modular qualification course. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do modular qualification. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufspsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is modular qualification?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufspsychologischer Service\)?](#)

What other possibilities exist?

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training is a course, after which you can take the official exam for a professional degree. In jobs with school-based training, the external exam for school-based training is often the same as the external exam for dual vocational training.

You can prepare for either external exam, if:

- You have worked in the profession for several years,
- There is an educational institute that organizes preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training,
- the relevant authorities agree to it. The relevant authorities is the institution that is responsible for the exams for your profession,

What professions have preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?

In reality, preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training do only exist for certain professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

The duration can vary. It depends on the profession and the course. In professions with dual training, it can take up to 6 months. It can take more than 1 year in professions with school-based training.

Many offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in the educational institute every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to learn a lot of theory in a short period of time. You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It always depends on the profession and offer.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

During retraining, you will not earn money at a company. You will receive more money from the Jobcenter. The Jobcenter can pay for the preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?](#)

In-Service Retraining

In-service retraining is like dual training except it is shorter. At the end, you take an official test to get a professional degree.

You can take part in in-service retraining if:

- You find a company where you can do in-service retraining. Most of the time, you will have to apply for this.

What professions offer in-service retraining?

In-service retraining is especially for professions with dual training. For professions with school-based education, in-service retraining is rarely available.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, the length of the vocational retraining depends on the length of the vocational training in that profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

In-service retraining is usually full-time. Full time means that you will learn everyday in a school/educational institution or in your company.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You receive subsidized education (funding). You will receive more money from the Jobcenter. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money. The Jobcenter can pay for private schools. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service retraining?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

Retraining

Retraining is for people who want to learn a new profession. Retraining is also a possibility for you if an assessment has shown that you have less professional experience than what is needed for the other possibilities or that these other possibilities aren't available in your region. In-service retraining is different to other training possibilities because it is organised by an educational institution. At the end of it, you take the official test to get a professional degree.

You can do retraining, if:

- There is an educational institute that organizes retraining.

What professions offer vocational retraining?

In reality, retraining doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, retraining is shorter than vocational training. It depends on the duration of the vocational training for a profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German. Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

During retraining, you will not earn money at a company. You will receive more money from the Jobcenter. The Jobcenter can pay for your retraining. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do retraining. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufpsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

If your residence permit is shorter than the retraining, you should speak with the Immigration Office. Otherwise, the Jobcenter might not pay for your retraining.

You can find more information here

[What is retraining?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufpsychologischer Service\)?](#)

Vocational training

Vocational training the most common and popular way to get a professional degree in Germany.

You can do vocational retraining if:

- You can find a company or a school that agrees to a vocational training contract with you. You will need to apply for this.

School-based vocational training works differently than dual vocational training. Therefore, it is important that you find help from an advice center.

How Long Will It Take?

Vocational training lasts between 2 and 3.5 years. It depends on the profession. You can also shorten your dual training if you already have professional experience, a high school diploma, or you did very well at school. For school-based training, you can only shorten training length in certain professions.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in a school or in your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day. For this, you must meet certain requirements.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

In a dual training program, your education is subsidized (funded). The amount of money you receive depends on the job and the company. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money.

In a school-based training program, you usually can't get subsidized education.

You can submit an application for financial assistance for vocational training. There are laws about the conditions you have to meet. If financial support isn't an option, you can receive money from the Jobcenter.

It is very important that you talk to your Jobcenter first.

You can find more information here

[What is vocational training?](#)

In-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training

In-service training means you will work and at the same time, you will study the theory that you still need to learn at an educational institution. At the end of it, you take the official test to get a professional degree. Professions with school-based training are usually in-service vocational training. Professions with dual training are usually in-service modular qualifications.

You can do in-service modular qualification / in-service vocational training if:

- You find a company where you can work and where you are subject to social security contributions (sozialversicherungspflichtig). The job has to be in the profession that you want to study. Usually, you will have to apply for the job,
- You talk to your boss about your plans and,
- You have found an educational institute that organizes in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training and,

What professions offer in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training?

In reality, in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

In professions with dual training duration is dependent on your professional experience and your professional knowledge.

For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Generally, you study for 2 days a week in an educational institute and the other days of the week you work for your company.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2.

It always depends on the profession and offer.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. The Jobcenter or the Employment Agency can fund in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training.

A program for financing in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training is called WeGebAU. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufpsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufpsychologischer Service\)?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Contact an advice center to know:
 - if your profession is a profession with school-based or dual training,
 - what offers exist around you and
 - how you can take part in an offer.
5. [You can search for an advice center here.](#)

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

14.09.2016

NQBJJC

You have worked for several years in the profession that you want to learn. You are currently working but you want to get a professional qualification in a different profession. You receive money from the Jobcenter.

By using your answers, different ways to getting a professional degree will be shown to you. The first way probably best suits your experience and your professional situation. If this doesn't work for you, there are other possibilities. For each path, short summaries will point out the special requirements you need.

Do I Need a High School Diploma?

There are different laws and rules. Professions with school-based training have different rules to professions with dual training. In professions with school-based training, the law requires a high school diploma. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

For professions with dual training, the law doesn't require a high school diploma. But often, a high school diploma is expected in a company or institution. The type of diploma depends on the profession.

You can find more information here

[Here you will find more information about the laws and rules of school-based training and dual training.](#)

Modular Qualification

Modular qualification means that you are still learning the theoretical content and the practical skills that you need for the final exam. If your exam is successful, this leads to you getting your professional degree.

You can take modular qualification, if:

- There is an educational institute that organizes modular qualification,
- You can organize to work around your modular qualification course at the educational institute.

There are different rules for professions with school-based training and professions with dual training. Therefore, it is important that you go to an advice center for more information and help.

What professions offer modular qualification?

In reality, modular qualification doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

In professions with dual training duration is dependent on your existing professional experience and your professional knowledge. A modular qualification consists of modules. Often, you can also attend individual modules. You can only get a professional degree if you complete all of the necessary modules and successfully pass the final exam.

For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at a company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2.

It always depends on the profession and offer.

Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. You will receive more money from the Jobcenter. You should talk to your Jobcenter about how you can combine modular qualification and your job. The Jobcenter can pay for your modular qualification course. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do modular qualification. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufpsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is modular qualification?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufpsychologischer Service\)?](#)

What other possibilities exist?

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training

Preparation for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training is a course, after which you can take the official exam for a professional degree. In jobs with school-based training, the external exam for school-based training is often the same as the external exam for dual vocational training.

You can prepare for either external exam, if:

- You have worked in the profession for several years,
- There is an educational institute that organizes preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training,
- The relevant authorities agree to it. The relevant authority is the institution that is responsible for the exams for your profession,
- You can organize to work around the preparatory course for the external exam of your choice.

What professions have preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?

In reality, preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training do only exist for certain professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

The duration can vary. It depends on the profession and the course. In professions with dual training, it can take up to 6 months. It can take more than 1 year in professions with school-based training.

Many offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in the educational institute every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to learn a lot of theory in a short period of time. You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It always depends on the profession and offer.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. You will receive more money from the Jobcenter. The Jobcenter can pay for the preparatory courses for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is a preparatory course for external examinations for professions with school-based or dual vocational training?](#)

Retraining

Retraining is for people who want to learn a new profession. Retraining is also a possibility for you if an assessment has shown that you have less professional experience than what is needed for the other possibilities or that these other possibilities aren't available in your region. In-service retraining is different to other training possibilities because it is organised by an educational institution. At the end of it, you take the official test to get a professional degree.

You can do retraining, if:

- There is an educational institute that organizes retraining, and
- You can organize to work around your retraining at the educational institute.

What professions offer vocational retraining?

In reality, retraining doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual.

How Long Will It Take?

For professions with dual training, retraining is shorter than vocational training. It depends on the duration of the vocational training for a profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in an educational institute or at an internship at your company every day. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German. Sometimes, there are also special offers for people with a B1 level in German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. You will receive more money from the Jobcenter. You should talk to your Jobcenter about how you can combine your retraining and your job. The Jobcenter can pay for your retraining. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do retraining. It is also important that you show that you have a better chance of getting a good job if you get a professional degree.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufpsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

If your residence permit is shorter than the retraining, you should speak with the Immigration Office. Otherwise, the Jobcenter might not pay for your retraining.

You can find more information here

[What is retraining?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufpsychologischer Service\)?](#)

What other possibilities exist?

The following possibilities are only available if you find a job in or a school for the profession that you want a professional degree in. You should speak to your Jobcenter.

In-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training

In-service training means you will work and at the same time, you will study the theory that you still need to learn at an educational institution. At the end of it, you take the official test to get a professional degree. Professions with school-based training are usually in-service vocational training. Professions with dual training are usually in-service modular qualifications.

You can do in-service modular qualification / in-service vocational training if:

- You find a (new) company where you can work and where you are subject to social security contributions (sozialversicherungspflichtig). The job has to be in the profession that you want to study. Usually, you will have to apply for the job,
- You talk to your boss about your plans and,
- You have found an educational institute that organizes in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training and,

What professions offer in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training?

In reality, in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training doesn't exist for all professions. The main reason for this is that not a lot of people know about it and it is very individual. Also, there is too little demand from individuals or the labour market for many professions.

How Long Will It Take?

In professions with dual training duration it depends on your professional experience and your professional knowledge.

For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

Generally, you study for 2 days a week in an educational institute and the other days of the week you work for your company.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. For most offers, your German level needs to be B2.

It always depends on the profession and offer.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You can continue to make money, because you will continue to work. The Jobcenter or the Employment Agency can fund in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training.

A program for financing in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training is called WeGebAU. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. It usually helps if you have a written argument that explains why you want to do in-service modular qualifications / in-service vocational training.

Often, you must take a test to get funding. A test will take place at the psychological service for employment (Berufpsychologischer Service) at the Employment Agency.

Sometimes, there are also special programs that are other ways to receive funding - including the Federal State programs or the European Social Fund.

You can find more information here

[What is an in-service modular qualification/ in-service vocational training?](#)

[What is the psychological service for employment \(Berufpsychologischer Service\)?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

In-Service Retraining

In-service retraining is like dual training except it is shorter. At the end, you take an official test to get a professional degree.

You can take part in in-service retraining if:

- You find a (new) company where you can do in-service retraining. Most of the time, you will have to apply for this.

What professions offer in-service retraining?

In-service retraining is especially for professions with dual training. For professions with school-based training, in-service retraining is rarely available.

How Long Does It Take?

For professions with dual training, the length of the vocational retraining depends on the length of the vocational training in that profession. For professions with school-based training, there is a legally determined length.

In-service retraining is usually full-time. Full time means that you will learn everyday in a school/educational institution or in your (new) company.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You might earn less money because you can get a funding for vocational training. You will receive more money from the Jobcenter. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money. The Jobcenter can pay for private schools. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding.

You can find more information here

[What is in-service retraining?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

Vocational training

Vocational training the most common and popular way to get a professional degree in Germany.

You can do vocational retraining if:

- You can find a (new) company or a school that agrees to a vocational training contract with you. Most of the time you need to apply for this.

School-based vocational training works differently than a dual training. Therefore, it is important that you find help from an advice center.

How Long Will It Take?

Training lasts between 2 and 3.5 years. It depends on the profession. You can also shorten your dual training if you already have professional experience, a high school diploma, or you did very well at school. You can only shorten training length in certain professions for school-based training.

Most offers are full time. Full time means you study for about 7-8 hours in a school every day or in your (new) company. Sometimes there are also part time offers, meaning less hours per day. For this, you must meet certain requirements.

What German Skills Do I Need?

You need to read and write a lot. The practical and written examinations are always in German. Therefore, you need a good level of German. It also depends on the profession and potential help you can get to practice German.

What can I do if I don't have the right level of German yet?

[Here you will find ways to continue to learn German.](#)

Can I Get Financial Aid?

You might earn less money than you do now. In a dual training program, your education is subsidized (funded). The amount of money you receive depends on the job and the company. The course is usually in a State school (Berufsschule). The school fees will be paid by the State. There are also private schools (Bildungsinstitute), that cost money.

In a school-based training program, you usually can't get subsidized education.

You can submit an application for financial assistance for vocational training. There are laws about the conditions you have to meet. If financial support isn't an option, you can receive money from the Jobcenter.

You can find more information here

[What is vocational training?](#)

[What is an application?](#)

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Contact an advice center to know:
 - if your profession is a profession with school-based or dual training,
 - what offers exist around you and
 - how you can take part in an offer.
5. [You can search for an advice center here.](#)

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

14.09.2016

O_AC

You didn't learn a profession and don't have a degree. You don't know what profession you want to learn in Germany or what the profession is called in Germany. You have a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain.

You can learn more than 400 professions in Germany.

It is important that you know:

- What professions exist,
- What professions suit you,
- Whether the profession requires vocational training,
- What requirements you need to meet,
- What options you have in your city.

There are different ways you can inform and orientate yourself.

Where Can I Find More Information?

In many cities, there are offers for newcomers. The largest project in Germany is called "Integrationsrichtlinie Bund: Integration von Asylbewerbern und Flüchtlingen" (Federal Integration Policy: Integration of Asylum Seekers and Refugees). The project offers many different possibilities in all German Federal States.

In almost all of the German Federal States, there are institutions that give free advice about education and professional orientation.

In every State, there are also special offers for women.

[What is professional orientation?](#)

[Where can I find counselling services and projects?](#)

If you are registered with the Employment Agency, there are also more possibilities for professional orientation.

If you are not yet registered with the Employment Agency, you can still do that. You will not receive any unemployment benefits but you can get some help and advice. The Employment Agency can, for example, finance professional orientation courses. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding.

[How do I register with the Employment Agency?](#)

What German Skills Do I Need?

Often, you can get advice in different languages. However, a lot of the advice is in German. That's why it would be useful to know the basics in German. Check what languages are available before you meet with a professional about recognition. You can always bring an interpreter to help you.

Most courses about professional orientation are also in German. That's why it would be useful to know the basics in German.

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Contact an advice center, your Jobcenter or your Employment Agency for more information.
5. When you know what profession you want to get a degree in, you can always use the Roadmap again and get new results by editing it.

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

05.09.2016

OB

You didn't learn a profession and don't have a degree. You don't know what profession you want to learn in Germany or what the profession is called in Germany.

You can learn more than 400 professions in Germany. There are different rules and requirements for getting a degree.

It is important that you know:

- What professions exist,
- What professions suit you,
- Whether the profession requires vocational training,
- What requirements you need to meet,
- What options you have in your city.

There are different ways you can inform and orientate yourself.

Where Can I Find More Information?

In many cities, there are offers for newcomers. The largest project in Germany is called "Integrationsrichtlinie Bund: Integration von Asylbewerbern und Flüchtlingen" (Federal Integration Policy: Integration of Asylum Seekers and Refugees). The project offers many different possibilities in all German Federal States.

In almost all of the German Federal States, there are institutions that give free advice about education and professional orientation.

In every State, there are also special offers for women.

[What is professional orientation?](#)

[Where can I find counselling services and projects?](#)

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[How do I register with the Employment Agency?](#)

What German Skills Do I Need?

Often, you can get advice in different languages. However, a lot of the advice is in German. That's why it would be useful to know the basics in German. Check what languages are available before you meet with a professional about recognition. You can always bring an interpreter to help you.

Most courses about professional orientation are also in German. That's why it would be useful to know the basics in German.

What can I do now?

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You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

22.08.2016

SmA_ABC

You have studied. You want to know if you can continue to study?

This Roadmap is to help you with your vocational or academic education rather than to help you find a job. That is why we only have a little bit of information for job hunting.

If you want to continue to study, you should go have a look at an International Office (Akademische Auslandsamt) of a university or a technical college.

[Here you can look up universities and technical colleges in English and German.](#)
You can also [inform the educational guidance guarantee fund College](#).

You Have Studied and Have a Diploma for Your Studies. You Want to Know What You Can Do With Your University Diploma?

For some academic professions, you need to get your diploma recognized so that you can work in that profession in Germany - for example for a doctor, teacher or lawyer. Contact an advice center about the possibilities of recognition for your diploma.

For most academic professions, you don't need recognition of your diploma to be able to work in that profession in Germany. However, you can, for example, check whether your diploma is a recognized diploma in Germany.

[You can find out more information about the evaluation and recognition of diplomas here.](#)

The website is available in German, English, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, Polish, Turkish and Greek.

In the database called [anabin](#), you can look up your diploma or your institute of higher education. Unfortunately, this website is only in German.

You Studied but You Don't Have a Diploma for Your Studies?

You can still get advice from an advice center.

You can find more important information in English, Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Tigrinya and Pashto on this app. [You can also find an advice center in your area.](#)

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.

4. Contact an advice center or a university/technical college for more information.

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

22.08.2016

KSoSO_A

You have never studied at a university but you want to start studying at an institute of higher education. You know what you want to study. You have a temporary permission to stay.

Congratulations - deciding what you want to study is one of the hardest parts!

We have to ask you 4 important questions before you start studying:

1 Do you meet all the requirements?

The most important conditions to fill for your first studies are:

a) Higher Education Entrance Qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung, HZB)

Meeting the requirements for Higher Education Entrance Qualification means you have permission to study at an institute of higher education.

If you finished your upper secondary education in another country, for example with a high school diploma, you have to check whether it counts as a higher education entrance qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung) in Germany.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What High School Diploma Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

b) Language Level (German and/or English)

Most courses are taught in German. Therefore, you need a very good level of German (about a C1 level). You have to take a test to show what your language level in German is. There are several tests that are accepted by institutions of higher education.

Some courses are taught in English. The institutes of higher education usually decide what English level you need and how you have to prove it.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Language Level Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

Tip:

For some courses, you have to meet additional requirements.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Other Requirements and Rules Are There?](#)

What can I do if I did not meet the requirements?

It depends on which conditions you still have to meet:

- Higher Education Entrance Qualification
- Language Level or
- Special conditions required by a degree.

For more information have a look at [How Can I Prepare For My Studies?](#)

2 Do You Know the Conditions of Your Residence Status?

You can start studying if you have met all of the requirements of an institute of higher education and if you have a temporary permission to stay.

You can't get an exceptional leave to remain or a residence permit while for the duration of your studies at an institute of higher education.

You can only get a residence permit for your studies if you apply for it from abroad. Other rules apply for international students or for students that have a study visa.

An exceptional leave to remain can only be obtained for vocational training. Studying for a degree is not vocational training. An exception to this are training integrated dual studies. This is when you do both vocational training and study at the same time. You can find more information here [What is dual studies?](#) The rules are in the Residence Act ([§60a AufenthG](#)). If you meet specific criteria, you can get an exceptional leave to remain for the duration of your training. An exceptional leave to remain means there is a "suspension of deportation". This means that you can stay for the duration of your vocational training in Germany. This rule only works for vocational trainings which take at least 2 years. If you find a job as a specialist for your profession, you can get a residence permit for the 2 years after your vocational training.

Find more information before you start your studies at [institutions of higher education or an advice center](#).

3 Do You Know How You Can Finance Your Studies?

Usually, you don't make any money while you study. An exception to this is [dual training](#).

There are different ways to finance your studies. One possibility is getting financial support from the state.

Your residence status influences what financial support you can get (for example BAföG). BAföG is the acronym for the laws that determine how the state's financial aid is used. BAföG stands for [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz \(The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act\)](#).

With an exceptional leave to remain you can't get any BAföG. An exception to this is if, for example, you have already lived or worked in Germany for 5 years or one of your parents has worked here. The rules are available in [§8 BAföG](#).

If you have lived in Germany for 15 months, the beginning of your studies (enrollment) can influence the financial aid you currently get and whether you can get a BAföG ([BAföG-Fälle - Seite 47](#)). The rules are available in [§ 22 SGBXII](#).

Find more information before you start your studies at a [social or legal advice center](#)!

Note:

If you want to work during your studies, you will need an employment permit. An employment permit from the Immigration Office is proof that you are allowed to work.

In your papers (temporary permission to stay), it usually says "Beschäftigung nur mit Erlaubnis der Ausländerbehörde" (Employment only with the permission of the Immigration Office). If it says „Beschäftigung nicht gestattet“ or „Erwerbstätigkeit nicht gestattet“ (employment/work are prohibited) in your papers, get legal advice on any further action.

4 During Your Studies, What is Important to You?

- Are you more interested in the practical side rather than the theory?
- Do you want or need to work during your studies?
- Do you prefer to learn in small groups?

You can attend many different types of courses in different learning formats at various universities. For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapters called [How can I Get a Degree?](#) und [What Is an Institute of Higher Education?](#)

What Can I Do If The Studies I Want To Do Are Unavailable To Me Right Now?

It depends on why you can't start your studies.

You still do not meet requirements or haven't gotten accepted?

There are many ways in which you can prepare for your studies. You can find out more at [How to prepare for your studies?](#)

You are thinking about alternatives?

In Germany, there is a difference between:

- Vocational training (Ausbildung) with the aim of getting a professional degree and,
- Academic training (Studium) with the aim of getting a university degree.

If you want to be a doctor, lawyer or an engineer, you need to get a university degree.

If you want to work in the general field of health, law or engineering, you can either get a degree (through studies) or a professional degree (through vocational training).

The German system for vocational training is special. In particular the system put in place for dual training as this type of vocational training doesn't exist in most other countries.

People can still get a degree through vocational training even if they are not studying at a university.

Vocational training is a great option for people who don't study because

- they can't (for example, don't have a Higher Education Entrance Qualification) or
- they don't want to (for example, they would rather learn in a more practical way and work).

With a professional degree you can also find a good job and work as a professional. You can still decide to continue to study later on.

For adults, vocational training is a good option but there are also several other ways to get a professional degree. These possibilities usually depend on :

- Professional experience in the profession of your choice,
- specific requirements of the profession and
- Existing offers.

In the [Vocational Training Hop-on Compass](#) you can find more information about advice centers and the different ways you can get a professional degree.

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Find more personally relevant information at an [advice center or directly at an institute of higher education](#).

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

Good luck with your future endeavors!

Information as of

01.09.2017

KSoSO_B

You have never studied at University but you now wish to do so. You know what you want to study. You have a residence permit. You don't receive money from a Jobcenter.

Congratulations - deciding what you want to study is one of the hardest parts!

We have to ask you 3 important questions before you start studying:

1 Do you meet all the requirements?

The most important conditions to fill for your first studies are:

a) Higher Education Entrance Qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung, HZB)

If you have a Higher Education Entrance Qualification it means you have permission to study at an institute of higher education.

If you got your high school diploma in another country, you have to check whether it counts as a higher education entrance qualification in Germany.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What High School Diploma Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

b) Language Level (German and/or English)

Most courses are taught in German. Therefore, you need a very good level of German (about a C1 level). You have to take a test to show what your language level in German is. There are several tests that are accepted by institutions of higher education.

Some courses are taught in English. The institutes of higher education usually decide what English level you need and how you have to prove it.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Language Level Do I Need For My Studies](#)

Tip:

For some courses, you have to meet additional requirements.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Other Requirements and Rules Are There?](#)

What can I do if I did not meet the requirements?

It depends on which conditions you still have to meet:

- Higher Education Entrance Qualification
- Language Level or
- Special conditions required by a degree.

For more information have a look at [How can I be prepared for my studies?](#)

2 Do You Know How You Can Finance Your Studies?

Usually, you don't make any money while you study. An exception to this is [dual training](#).

There are different ways to finance your studies. One possibility is getting financial support from the state (called BAföG).

BAföG is the acronym for the laws that determine how the state's financial aid is used. BAföG stands for [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz \(The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act\)](#).

For the BAföG, you have to meet certain requirements. You can find the rules in the The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act ([§§ 8, 9 und 10 BAföG](#)).

You can find more information about financial aid you can have a look at [What is studying full-time?](#) for example

3 During Your Studies, What is Important to You?

- Are you more interested in the practical side rather than the theory?
- Do you want or need to work during your studies?
- Do you prefer to learn in small groups?

You can attend many different types of courses in different learning formats at various universities. For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapters called [How can I Get a Degree?](#) und [What Is an Institute of Higher Education?](#)

What Can I Do If The Studies I Want To Do Are Unavailable To Me Right Now?

It depends on why you can't start your studies.

You still do not meet requirements or haven't gotten accepted?

There are many ways in which you can prepare for your studies. You can find out more at [How to prepare for your studies?](#)

You are thinking about alternatives?

In Germany, there is a difference between:

- Vocational training (Ausbildung) with the aim of getting a professional degree and,
- Academic training (Studium) with the aim of getting a university degree.

If you want to be a doctor, lawyer or an engineer, you need to get a university degree.

If you want to work in the general field of health, law or engineering, you can either get a degree (through studies) or a professional degree (through vocational training).

The German system for vocational training is special. In particular the system put in place for dual training as this type of vocational training doesn't exist in most other countries.

People can still get a degree through vocational training even if they are not studying at a university.

Vocational training is a great option for people who don't study because

- they can't (for example, don't have a Higher Education Entrance Qualification) or
- they don't want to (for example, they would rather learn in a more practical way and work).

With a professional degree you can also find a good job and work as a professional. You can still decide to continue to study later on.

For adults, there are several ways to get a professional degree. These possibilities usually depend on :

- Professional experience in the profession of your choice,
- Specific requirements of the profession and
- Existing offers.

In the [Vocational Training Hop-on Compass](#) you can find more information about advice centers and the different ways you can get a professional degree.

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
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3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Find more personally relevant information at an [advice center or directly at an institute of higher education](#).

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

Good luck with your future endeavors!

Score

01.09.2017

KSoSO_BJC

You have never studied at University but you now wish to do so. You know what you want to study. You have a residence permit. You receive money from the Jobcenter.

Congratulations - deciding what you want to study is one of the hardest parts!

We have to ask you 3 important questions before you start studying:

1 Do you meet all the requirements?

The most important conditions to fill for your first studies are:

a) Higher Education Entrance Qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung, HZB)

If you have a Higher Education Entrance Qualification it means you have permission to study at an institute of higher education.

If you got your high school diploma in another country, you have to check whether it counts as a higher education entrance qualification in Germany.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What High School Diploma Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

b) Language Level (German and/or English)

Most courses are taught in German. Therefore, you need a very good level of German (about a C1 level). You have to take a test to show what your language level in German is. There are several tests that are accepted by institutions of higher education.

Some courses are taught in English. The institutes of higher education usually decide what English level you need and how you have to prove it.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Language Level Do I Need For My Studies](#)

Tip:

For some courses, you have to meet additional requirements.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Other Requirements and Rules Are There?](#)

What can I do if I did not meet the requirements?

It depends on which conditions you still have to meet:

- Higher Education Entrance Qualification
- Language Level or
- Special conditions required by a degree.

For more information have a look at [How can I be prepared for my studies?](#)

2 Do You Know How You Can Finance Your Studies?

Usually, you don't make any money while you study. An exception to this is [dual training](#).

There are different ways to finance your studies. One possibility is getting financial support from the state (called BAföG).

BAföG is the acronym for the laws that determine how the state's financial aid is used. BAföG stands for [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz \(The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act\)](#).

For the BAföG, you have to meet certain requirements. You can find the rules in the The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act ([§§ 8, 9 und 10 BAföG](#)).

You can find more information about financial aid you can have a look at [What is studying full-time?](#) for example

Note:

If you start to study at an institute of higher education, you will no longer be able to receive unemployment benefits (Arbeitslosengeld II) even if you don't get the BAföG. The rules are available in [§ 22 SGBXII](#).

Whether or not you can receive money from the Jobcenter depends on each individual case. The rules are very complicated. Find out more before you start studying, for example at a social advice center. On the student services website, you can look up more information in [English](#) or [German](#) about social advice given by student services.

3 During Your Studies, What is Important to You?

- Are you more interested in the practical side rather than the theory?
- Do you want or need to work during your studies?
- Do you prefer to learn in small groups?

You can attend many different types of courses in different learning formats at various universities. For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapters called [How can I Get a Degree?](#) und [What Is an Institute of Higher Education?](#)

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3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Find more personally relevant information at an [advice center](#) or [directly at an institute of higher education](#).

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

Good luck with your future endeavors!

Score

01.09.2017

KSoSO_C

You have never studied at a university but you want to start studying at an institute of higher education. You know what you want to study. You have an exceptional leave to remain.

Congratulations - deciding what you want to study is one of the hardest parts!

We have to ask you 4 important questions before you start studying:

1 Do you meet all the requirements?

The most important conditions to fill for your first studies are:

a) Higher Education Entrance Qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung, HZB)

If you have a Higher Education Entrance Qualification it means you have permission to study at an institute of higher education.

If you got your high school diploma in another country, you have to check whether it counts as a higher education entrance qualification in Germany.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What High School Diploma Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

b) Language Level (German and/or English)

Most courses are taught in German. Therefore, you need a very good level of German (about a C1 level). You have to take a test to show what your language level in German is. There are several tests that are accepted by institutions of higher education.

Some courses are taught in English. The institutes of higher education usually decide what English level you need and how you have to prove it.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Language Level Do I Need For My Studies](#)

Tip:

For some courses, you have to meet additional requirements.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Other Requirements and Rules Are There?](#)

What can I do if I did not meet the requirements?

It depends on which conditions you still have to meet:

- Higher Education Entrance Qualification
- Language Level or
- Special conditions required by a degree.

For more information have a look at [How can I be prepared for my studies?](#)

2 Do You Know the Conditions of Your Residence Status?

You can start studying if you have met all of the requirements of an institute of higher education and if you have an exceptional leave to remain.

You can't get a special exceptional leave to remain or a residence permit for the duration of your studies at an institute of higher education.

You can only get a residence permit for your studies if you apply for it from abroad. Other rules apply for international students or for students that have a study visa.

An exceptional leave to remain can only be obtained for vocational training. Studying for a degree is not vocational training. An exception to this are dual studies. This is when you do both vocational training and study at the same time. You can find more information here [What is dual training?](#) The rules are in the Residence Act (§60a AufenthG). You can get an exceptional leave to remain for the duration of your vocational training if you meet certain requirements. An exceptional leave to remain means there is a "suspension of deportation". This means that you can stay for the duration of your vocational training in Germany. This rule only works for vocational trainings which take at least 2 years. If you find a job as a specialist for your profession, you can get a residence permit for the 2 years after your vocational training.

Find more information before you start your studies at [institutions of higher education or an advice center](#).

3 Do You Know How You Can Finance Your Studies?

Usually, you don't make any money while you study. An exception to this is [dual training](#).

There are different ways to finance your studies. One possibility is getting financial support from the state.

Your residence status influences what financial support you can get (for example BAföG). BAföG is the acronym for the laws that determine how the state's financial aid is used. BAföG stands for [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz \(The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act\)](#).

With an exceptional leave to remain, you can get a BAföG if you have lived in Germany for 15 months and you meet all the other requirements. You can find the rules in the The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act (§§ 8, 9 und 10 BAföG).

Find more information before you start your studies at a [social or legal advice center](#)!

Note:

If you want to work during your studies, you will need an employment permit. An employment permit from the Immigration Office is proof that you are allowed to work.

In your papers (temporary permission to stay), it usually says "Beschäftigung nur mit Erlaubnis der Ausländerbehörde" (Employment only with the permission of the Immigration Office). If it says „Beschäftigung nicht gestattet“ or „Erwerbstätigkeit nicht gestattet“ (employment/work are prohibited) in your papers, get legal advice on any further action.

4 During Your Studies, What is Important to You?

- Are you more interested in the practical side rather than the theory?
- Do you want or need to work during your studies?
- Do you prefer to learn in small groups?

You can attend many different types of courses in different learning formats at various universities. For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapters called [How can I Get a Degree?](#) und [What Is an Institute of Higher Education?](#)

What Can I Do If The Studies I Want To Do Are Unavailable To Me Right Now?

It depends on why you can't start your studies.

You still do not meet requirements or haven't gotten accepted?

There are many ways in which you can prepare for your studies. You can find out more at [How to prepare for your studies?](#)

You are thinking about alternatives?

In Germany, there is a difference between:

- Vocational training (Ausbildung) with the aim of getting a professional degree and,
- Academic training (Studium) with the aim of getting a university degree.

If you want to be a doctor, lawyer or an engineer, you need to get a university degree.

If you want to work in the general field of health, law or engineering, you can either get a degree (through studies) or a professional degree (through vocational training).

The German system for vocational training is special. In particular the system put in place for dual training as this type of vocational training doesn't exist in most other countries.

People can still get a degree through vocational training even if they are not studying at a university.

Vocational training is a great option for people who don't study because

- they can't (for example, don't have a Higher Education Entrance Qualification) or

- they don't want to (for example, they would rather learn in a more practical way and work).

With a professional degree you can also find a good job and work as a professional. You can still decide to continue to study later on.

For adults, there are several ways to get a professional degree. These possibilities usually depend on :

- Professional experience in the profession of your choice,
- Specific requirements of the profession and
- Existing offers.

In the [Vocational Training Hop-on Compass](#) you can find more information about advice centers and the different ways you can get a professional degree.

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Find more personally relevant information at an [advice center or directly at an institute of higher education](#).

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

Good luck with your future endeavors!

Information as of

01.09.2017

KSSO_A

You have never studied at a university but you want to start studying at an institute of higher education. You don't know what you want to study. You have a temporary permission to stay.

How Can I Decide What to Study?

Deciding what to study is not easy. You can base your decision on many different criteria. You can turn these criteria into questions to ask yourself:

- What **subjects** do I find interesting?
- What **skills** do I have and which ones do I need?
- What type of **learning** and **content** best suits me?
- What **profession** will my degree steer me towards?

1 Subjects

Choosing what subjects to study is particularly difficult:

- What subjects were you interested in at school?
- What are you good at?
- What do you enjoy doing?

For example:

When you study medicine, biology will be a very big part of what you have to study. Medicine is probably not the best choice for you if you

- didn't do well in biology at school and
- don't enjoy studying biology.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [How can I Decide What to Study?](#)

2 Path

You can attend many different types of courses in different learning formats at various universities. The differences are mainly in how important the theory is as opposed to more practical skills or in the possibilities available after the studies you do.

If your chosen course of study offers different types of learning, you can ask yourself the following questions:

- Are you more interested in the practical side rather than the theory?
- Do you want or need to work during your studies?
- Do you want to work in a scientific sector in the future?

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapters called [How can I Get a Degree?](#) und [What Is an Institute of Higher Education?](#)

What Requirements Do I Have to Meet to Study?

The most important conditions to fill for your first studies are:

a) Higher Education Entrance Qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung, HZB)

Meeting the requirements for Higher Education Entrance Qualification means you have permission to study at an institute of higher education.

If you finished your upper secondary education in another country, for example with a high school diploma, you have to check whether it counts as a higher education entrance qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung) in Germany.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What High School Diploma Do I Need For My Studies](#)

b) Language Level (German and/or English)

Most courses are taught in German. Therefore, you need a very good level of German (about a C1 level). You have to take a test to show what your language level in German is. There are several tests that are accepted by institutions of higher education.

Some courses are taught in English. The institutes of higher education usually decide what English level you need and how you have to prove it.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Language Level Do I Need For My Studies](#)

Tip:

For some courses, you have to meet additional requirements.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Other Requirements and Rules Are There?](#)

What can I do if I did not meet the requirements?

It depends on which conditions you still have to meet:

- Higher Education Entrance Qualification
- Language Level or
- Special conditions required by a degree.

For more information have a look at [How Can I Prepare For My Studies?](#)

Can I Start to Study If I Have a Temporary Permission to Stay?

You can start studying if you have met all of the requirements of an institute of higher education and if you have a temporary permission to stay.

You can't get an exceptional leave to remain or a residence permit while for the duration of your studies at an institute of higher education.

You can only get a residence permit for your studies if you apply for it from abroad. Other rules apply for international students or for students that have a study visa.

An exceptional leave to remain can only be obtained for vocational training. Studying for a degree is not vocational training. An exception to this are training integrated dual studies. This is when you do both vocational training and study at the same time. You can find more information here [What is dual studies?](#) The rules are in the Residence Act ([§60a AufenthG](#)). If you meet specific criteria, you can get an exceptional leave to remain for the duration of your training. An exceptional leave to remain means there is a "suspension of deportation". This means that you can stay for the duration of your vocational training in Germany. This rule only works for vocational trainings which take at least 2 years. If you find a job as a specialist for your profession, you can get a residence permit for the 2 years after your vocational training.

Find more information before you start your studies at [institutions of higher education or an advice center](#).

How Can I Finance My Studies?

Usually, you don't make any money while you study. An exception to this is [dual studies](#).

There are different ways to finance your studies. One possibility is getting financial support from the state.

Your residence status influences what financial support you can get (for example BAföG). BAföG is the acronym for the laws that determine how the state's financial aid is used. BAföG stands for [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz \(The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act\)](#).

With an exceptional leave to remain you can't get any BAföG. An exception to this is if, for example, you have already lived or worked in Germany for 5 years or one of your parents has worked here. The rules are available in [§8 BAföG](#).

If you have lived in Germany for 15 months, the beginning of your studies (enrollment) can influence the financial aid you currently get and whether you can get a BAföG ([BAföG-Fälle - Seite 47](#)). The rules are available in [§ 22 SGBXII](#).

If you want to work during your studies, you will need an employment permit. An employment permit from the Immigration Office is proof that you are allowed to work.

In your papers (temporary permission to stay), it usually says "Beschäftigung nur mit Erlaubnis der Ausländerbehörde" (Employment only with the permission of the Immigration Office). If it says „Beschäftigung nicht gestattet“ or „Erwerbstätigkeit nicht gestattet“ (employment/work are prohibited) in your papers, get legal advice on any further action.

Find more information before you start your studies at a [social or legal advice center](#)!

Are There Alternatives to Studying?

In Germany, there is a difference between:

- Vocational training (Ausbildung) with the aim of getting a professional degree and,
- Academic training (Studium) with the aim of getting an academic degree.

If you want to be a doctor, lawyer or an engineer, you need to get a degree.

If you want to work in the general field of health, law or engineering, you can either get a degree (through studies) or a professional degree (through vocational training).

The German system for vocational training is special. In particular the system put in place for dual training as this type of vocational training doesn't exist in most other countries.

People can still get a degree through vocational training even if they are not studying at a university.

Vocational training is a great option for people who don't study because

- they can't (for example, don't have a Higher Education Entrance Qualification) or
- they don't want to (for example, they would rather learn in a more practical way and work).

With a professional degree you can also find a good job and work as a professional. You can still decide to continue to study later on.

For adults, vocational training is a good option but there are also several other ways to get a professional degree. These possibilities usually depend on :

- Professional experience in the profession of your choice,
- specific requirements of the profession and
- Existing offers.

In the [Vocational Training Hop-on Compass](#) you can find more information about advice centers and the different ways you can get a professional degree.

What can I do now?

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2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Find more personally relevant information at an [advice center or directly at an institute of higher education](#).

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

Good luck with your future endeavors!

Score

01.09.2017

KSSO_B

You have never studied at University but you now wish to do so. You don't know what you want to study. You have a residence permit. You don't receive money from a Jobcenter.

How Can I Decide What to Study?

Deciding what to study is not easy. You can base your decision on many different criteria. You can turn these criteria into questions to ask yourself:

- What **subjects** do I find interesting?
- What **skills** do I have and which ones do I need?
- What type of **learning** and **content** best suits me?
- What **profession** will my degree steer me towards?

1 Subjects

Choosing what subjects to study is particularly difficult:

- What subjects were you interested in at school?
- What are you good at?
- What do you enjoy doing?

For example:

When you study medicine, biology will be a very big part of what you have to study. Medicine is probably not the best choice for you if you

- didn't do well in biology at school and
- don't enjoy studying biology.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [How can I Decide What to Study?](#)

2 Path

You can attend many different types of courses in different learning formats at various universities. The differences are mainly in how important the theory is as opposed to more practical skills or in the possibilities available after the studies you do.

If your chosen course of study offers different types of learning, you can ask yourself the following questions:

- Are you more interested in the practical side rather than the theory?
- Do you want or need to work during your studies?
- Do you want to work in a scientific sector in the future?

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapters called [How can I Get a Degree?](#) und [What Is an Institute of Higher Education?](#)

What Requirements Do I Have to Meet to Study?

The most important conditions to fill for your first studies are:

a) Higher Education Entrance Qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung, HZB)

Meeting the requirements for Higher Education Entrance Qualification means you have permission to study at an institute of higher education.

If you finished your upper secondary education in another country, for example with a high school diploma, you have to check whether it counts as a higher education entrance qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung) in Germany.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What High School Diploma Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

b) Language Level (German and/or English)

Most courses are taught in German. Therefore, you need a very good level of German (about a C1 level). You have to take a test to show what your language level in German is. There are several tests that are accepted by institutions of higher education.

Some courses are taught in English. The institutes of higher education usually decide what English level you need and how you have to prove it.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Language Level Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

Tip:

For some courses, you have to meet additional requirements.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Other Requirements and Rules Are There?](#)

What can I do if I did not meet the requirements?

It depends on which conditions you still have to meet:

- Higher Education Entrance Qualification
- Language Level or
- Special conditions required by a degree.

For more information have a look at [How Can I Prepare For My Studies?](#)

How Can I Finance My Studies?

Usually, you don't make any money while you study. An exception to this is [dual training](#).

There are different ways to finance your studies. One possibility is getting financial support from the state (called BAföG).

BAföG is the acronym for the laws that determine how the state's financial aid is used. Bafög stands for [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz \(The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act\)](#).

For the Bafög, you have to meet certain requirements. You can find the rules in the The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act ([§§ 8, 9 und 10 Bafög](#)).

You can find more information about financial aid you can have a look at [What is studying full-time?](#) for example

Find more information before you start your studies at a [social or legal advice center](#)!

Are There Alternatives to Studying?

In Germany, there is a difference between:

- Vocational training (Ausbildung) with the aim of getting a professional degree and,
- Academic training (Studium) with the aim of getting an academic degree.

If you want to be a doctor, lawyer or an engineer, you need to get a university degree.

If you want to work in the general field of health, law or engineering, you can either get a degree (through studies) or a professional degree (through vocational training).

The German system for vocational training is special. In particular the system put in place for dual training as this type of vocational training doesn't exist in most other countries.

People can still get a degree through vocational training even if they are not studying at a university.

Vocational training is a great option for people who don't study because

- they can't (for example, don't have a Higher Education Entrance Qualification) or
- they don't want to (for example, they would rather learn in a more practical way and work).

With a professional degree you can also find a good job and work as a professional. You can still decide to continue to study later on.

For adults, vocational training is a good option but there are also several other ways to get a professional degree. These possibilities usually depend on :

- Professional experience in the profession of your choice,
- specific requirements of the profession and
- Existing offers.

In the [Vocational Training Hop-on Compass](#) you can find more information about advice centers and the different ways you can get a professional degree.

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Find more personally relevant information at an [advice center](#) or [directly at an institute of higher education](#).

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

Good luck with your future endeavors!

Score

01.09.2017

KSSO_BJC

You have never studied at University but you now wish to do so. You don't know what you want to study. You have a residence permit. You receive money from the Jobcenter.

How Can I Decide What to Study?

Deciding what to study is not easy. You can base your decision on many different criteria. You can turn these criteria into questions to ask yourself:

- What **subjects** do I find interesting?
- What **skills** do I have and which ones do I need?
- What type of **learning** and **content** best suits me?
- What **profession** will my degree steer me towards?

1 Subjects

Choosing what subjects to study is particularly difficult:

- What subjects were you interested in at school?
- What are you good at?
- What do you enjoy doing?

For example:

When you study medicine, biology will be a very big part of what you have to study. Medicine is probably not the best choice for you if you

- didn't do well in biology at school and
- don't enjoy studying biology.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [How can I Decide What to Study?](#)

2 Path

You can attend many different types of courses in different learning formats at various universities. The differences are mainly in how important the theory is as opposed to more practical skills or in the possibilities available after the studies you do.

If your chosen course of study offers different types of learning, you can ask yourself the following questions:

- Are you more interested in the practical side rather than the theory?
- Do you want or need to work during your studies?
- Do you want to work in a scientific sector in the future?

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapters called [How can I Get a Degree?](#) und [What Is an Institute of Higher Education?](#)

What Requirements Do I Have to Meet to Study?

The most important conditions to fill for your first studies are:

a) Higher Education Entrance Qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung, HZB)

Meeting the requirements for Higher Education Entrance Qualification means you have permission to study at an institute of higher education.

If you finished your upper secondary education in another country, for example with a high school diploma, you have to check whether it counts as a higher education entrance qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung) in Germany.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What High School Diploma Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

b) Language Level (German and/or English)

Most courses are taught in German. Therefore, you need a very good level of German (about a C1 level). You have to take a test to show what your language level in German is. There are several tests that are accepted by institutions of higher education.

Some courses are taught in English. The institutes of higher education usually decide what English level you need and how you have to prove it.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Language Level Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

Tip:

For some courses, you have to meet additional requirements.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Other Requirements and Rules Are There?](#)

What can I do if I did not meet the requirements?

It depends on which conditions you still have to meet:

- Higher Education Entrance Qualification
- Language Level or
- Special conditions required by a degree.

For more information have a look at [How Can I Prepare For My Studies?](#)

How Can I Finance My Studies?

Usually, you don't make any money while you study. An exception to this is [dual training](#).

There are different ways to finance your studies. One possibility is getting financial support from the state (called BAföG).

BAföG is the acronym for the laws that determine how the state's financial aid is used. Bafög stands for [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz \(The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act\)](#).

For the Bafög, you have to meet certain requirements. You can find the rules in the The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act ([§§ 8, 9 und 10 Bafög](#)).

You can find more information about financial aid you can have a look at [What is studying full-time?](#) for example

Note:

If you start to study at an institute of higher education, you will no longer be able to receive unemployment benefits (Arbeitslosengeld II) even if you don't get the Bafög. The rules are available in [§ 22 SGBXII](#).

Whether or not you can receive money from the Jobcenter depends on each individual case. The rules are very complicated. Find out more before you start studying, for example at a social advice center. On the student services website, you can look up more information in [English](#) or [German](#) about social advice given by student services.

Are There Alternatives to Studying?

In Germany, there is a difference between:

- Vocational training (Ausbildung) with the aim of getting a professional degree and,
- Academic training (Studium) with the aim of getting an academic degree.

If you want to be a doctor, lawyer or an engineer, you need to get a university degree.

If you want to work in the general field of health, law or engineering, you can either get a degree (through studies) or a professional degree (through vocational training).

The German system for vocational training is special. In particular the system put in place for dual training as this type of vocational training doesn't exist in most other countries.

People can still get a degree through vocational training even if they are not studying at a university.

Vocational training is a great option for people who don't study because

- they can't (for example, don't have a Higher Education Entrance Qualification) or
- they don't want to (for example, they would rather learn in a more practical way and work).

With a professional degree you can also find a good job and work as a professional. You can still decide to continue to study later on.

For adults, vocational training is a good option but there are also several other ways to get a professional degree. These possibilities usually depend on :

- Professional experience in the profession of your choice,
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You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

Good luck with your future endeavors!

Score

01.09.2017

KSSO_C

You have never studied at a university but you want to start studying at an institute of higher education. You don't know what you want to study. You have an exceptional leave to remain.

How Can I Decide What to Study?

Deciding what to study is not easy. You can base your decision on many different criteria. You can turn these criteria into questions to ask yourself:

- What **subjects** do I find interesting?
- What **skills** do I have and which ones do I need?
- What type of **learning** and **content** best suits me?
- What **profession** will my degree steer me towards?

1 Subjects

Choosing what subjects to study is particularly difficult:

- What subjects were you interested in at school?
- What are you good at?
- What do you enjoy doing?

For example:

When you study medicine, biology will be a very big part of what you have to study. Medicine is probably not the best choice for you if you

- didn't do well in biology at school and
- don't enjoy studying biology.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [How can I Decide What to Study?](#)

2 Path

You can attend many different types of courses in different learning formats at various universities. The differences are mainly in how important the theory is as opposed to more practical skills or in the possibilities available after the studies you do.

If your chosen course of study offers different types of learning, you can ask yourself the following questions:

- Are you more interested in the practical side rather than the theory?
- Do you want or need to work during your studies?
- Do you want to work in a scientific sector in the future?

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapters called [How can I Get a Degree?](#) und [What Is an Institute of Higher Education?](#)

What Requirements Do I Have to Meet to Study?

The most important conditions to fill for your first studies are:

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If you finished your upper secondary education in another country, for example with a high school diploma, you have to check whether it counts as a higher education entrance qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung) in Germany.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What High School Diploma Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

b) Language Level (German and/or English)

Most courses are taught in German. Therefore, you need a very good level of German (about a C1 level). You have to take a test to show what your language level in German is. There are several tests that are accepted by institutions of higher education.

Some courses are taught in English. The institutes of higher education usually decide what English level you need and how you have to prove it.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Language Level Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

Tip:

For some courses, you have to meet additional requirements.

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What can I do if I did not meet the requirements?

It depends on which conditions you still have to meet:

- Higher Education Entrance Qualification
- Language Level or
- Special conditions required by a degree.

For more information have a look at [How Can I Prepare For My Studies?](#)

Can I Start to Study If I Have an Exceptional Leave to Remain?

You can start studying if you have met all of the requirements of an institute of higher education and if you have an exceptional leave to remain.

You can't get a special exceptional leave to remain or a residence permit for the duration of your studies at an institute of higher education.

You can only get a residence permit for your studies if you apply for it from abroad. Other rules apply for international students or for students that have a study visa.

An exceptional leave to remain can only be obtained for vocational training. Studying for a degree is not vocational training. An exception to this are training integrated dual studies. This is when you do both vocational training and study at the same time. You can find more information here [What is dual studies?](#) The rules are in the Residence Act ([§60a AufenthG](#)). If you meet specific criteria, you can get an exceptional leave to remain for the duration of your training. An exceptional leave to remain means there is a "suspension of deportation". This means that you can stay for the duration of your vocational training in Germany. This rule only works for vocational trainings which take at least 2 years. If you find a job as a specialist for your profession, you can get a residence permit for the 2 years after your vocational training.

Find more information before you start your studies at [institutions of higher education or an advice center](#).

How Can I Finance My Studies?

Usually, you don't make any money while you study. An exception to this is [dual studies](#).

There are different ways to finance your studies. One possibility is getting financial support from the state.

Your residence status influences what financial support you can get (for example BAföG). BAföG is the acronym for the laws that determine how the state's financial aid is used. BAföG stands for [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz \(The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act\)](#).

With an exceptional leave to remain, you can get a BAföG if you have lived in Germany for 15 months and you meet all the other requirements. You can find the rules in the The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act ([§§ 8, 9 und 10 BAföG](#)).

If you would like to work after your studies, you need a work permit (Beschäftigungserlaubnis). Having a work permit means that the Immigration Office (Ausländerbehörde) gives you permission to work. In your papers (temporary permission to stay), it usually says "Beschäftigung nur mit Erlaubnis der Ausländerbehörde" (Employment only with the permission of the Immigration Office). If it says „Beschäftigung nicht gestattet“ or „Erwerbstätigkeit nicht gestattet“ (employment/work are prohibited) in your papers, get legal advice on any further action.

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In Germany, there is a difference between:

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If you want to be a doctor, lawyer or an engineer, you need to get a university degree.

If you want to work in the general field of health, law or engineering, you can either get a degree (through studies) or a professional degree (through vocational training).

The German system for vocational training is special. In particular the system put in place for dual training as this type of vocational training doesn't exist in most other countries.

People can still get a degree through vocational training even if they are not studying at a university.

Vocational training is a great option for people who don't study because

- they can't (for example, don't have a Higher Education Entrance Qualification) or
- they don't want to (for example, they would rather learn in a more practical way and work).

With a professional degree you can also find a good job and work as a professional. You can still decide to continue to study later on.

For adults, vocational training is a good option but there are also several other ways to get a professional degree. These possibilities usually depend on :

- Professional experience in the profession of your choice,
- specific requirements of the profession and
- Existing offers.

In the [Vocational Training Hop-on Compass](#) you can find more information about advice centers and the different ways you can get a professional degree.

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Find more personally relevant information at an [advice center or directly at an institute of higher education](#).

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

Good luck with your future endeavors!

Information as of

01.09.2017

SmAAA_AC

You already have a diploma from a university and you don't want to continue studying. You have been to see a professional about recognition. Your diploma is/can be recognized. You have a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain.

Recognition or to recognize means that you compare your diploma from another country to a diploma from Germany. For some academic diplomas, you need official recognition to be able to work in that profession in Germany. These professions are called regulated professions (reglementierte Berufe). Examples of this are doctor, teacher and lawyer.

For most academic diplomas, you don't need recognition of your diploma to be able to work in that profession in Germany. These professions are called non-regulated professions (nicht-reglementierte Berufe). Examples of this are IT, Languages or Economy. For these professions, there is no formal procedure for recognition (Gleichwertigkeitsprüfung). When you are looking for a job, companies often want to see whether your diploma is also an academic diploma in Germany too. This can have an effect on your salary. Usually, if your degree is listed in the anabin database, that is enough. You can also request an assessment of your diploma at the Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen, ZAB (Central Office for Foreign Education).

In this [graph of the IQ support program](#) you can see the difference in recognition. The graph is in German.

You Still Haven't Applied for the Recognition or Evaluation of Your Diploma?

You can plan your next steps for recognition with the IQ support program.

Seeing a professional about recognition can help you find out:

- Whether recognition is necessary or useful,
- Whether you need an evaluation of your diploma or if verifying if it is in anabin is enough,
- What documents you need and,
- Whether you need financial support for the recognition or evaluation of your diploma.

On the website called [anerkennung-in-deutschland](#) (recognition in Germany) you can look up professionals that specialize in recognition. The website is available in German, English, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, Polish, Turkish and Greek.

On the website, you can also have a look at the [App](#). You can get more information in English, Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Tigrinya and Pashto about professionals specializing in recognition in your area.

You Have Already Applied for the Recognition or Evaluation of Your Diploma?

Different possibilities are available to you. It depends on your profession.

When you know what options are available to you, you can see a professional about recognition again. The consultant can tell you what the result means and what you can do.

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On the website, you can also have a look at the [App](#). You can get more information in English, Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Tigrinya and Pashto about professionals specializing in recognition in your area.

In most professions, you can find a job without an official result because recognition isn't legally necessary. With an official result, it is often easier. A company will find it easier to understand what qualifications you have.

You Got Your Result and You Want to Start Working?

Hop-on focuses on getting certification (professional certification and academic certification). That is why there is not a lot of information on finding and applying for a job on Hop-on. That's why you won't find a lot of information here about looking for a job.

There are different ways to find a job. More information about finding a job can be found in the Hop-on Compass [Vocational Training](#).

Most companies want a written application.

A German application consists of three parts: a letter/coverletter, a CV and any relevant certificates.

A CV gives information about your person. For example, your address, date of birth, any vocational training or studies you have done and current job/work experience.

A CV also answers three questions:

- When?
- What?
- Where?

For example: When, what and where did you study? When, what, where did you work?

Once you have found a company, you need a permit from the Immigration Office, that proves that you are allowed to work. This is called employment permit (Beschäftigungserlaubnis) or work permit (Arbeitserlaubnis).

In your papers, it usually says "Employment only with the permission of the Immigration Office."

Usually, you can only get an employment permit if you have lived in Germany for at least 3 months.

If it says "employment/work are prohibited" in your papers, get legal advice on any further action.

If the country you migrated from is "[safe](#)", there are additional legal rules to follow. In this case, you should also get legal advice.

In most German states or regions, there is a special exam provided by the Employment Agency that you have to pass if you have lived in Germany for less than 15 months. The test is called "Vorrangprüfung."

The Employment Agency checks whether someone with a German or European passport could do the job you want to do.

The Employment Agency also checks, for example, whether or not you should be paid on the basis of the statutory rules.

The tests can sometimes take a long time.

There are many rules and exceptions to those rules. That is why it's important that you find out more information - for example at a [migration or legal advice center](#).

Need Help with Your Application?

If you are registered with the Employment Agency, there are different possibilities - for example job application training.

If you are not yet registered with the Employment Agency, you can still do that. You will not receive any unemployment benefits but you can get some help and advice. The Employment Agency can also finance job application training. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding.

[How do I register with the Employment Agency?](#)

You Received Your Result and You Want to Continue Studying or Study German?

In almost all of the German Federal States, there are institutions that give advice about education. This advice is called Bildungsberatung (advice about education).

When you get advice about education, you can ask a counselor any questions you have about continuing to study or learning German.

A list of advisory centers can be found in the [Hop-on Vocational Training Compass](#).

The IQ support program also has qualification possibilities for graduates. On the website called [Anerkennung in Deutschland](#) (recognition in Germany) you can also look for other options. The website is in German.

What can I do now?

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We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

25.07.2017

SmAAA_B

You already have a diploma from a university and you don't want to continue studying. You have been to see a professional about recognition. Your diploma is/can be recognized. You have a residence permit.

Recognition or to recognize means that you compare your diploma from another country to a diploma from Germany. For some academic diplomas, you need official recognition to be able to work in that profession in Germany. These professions are called regulated professions (reglementierte Berufe). Examples of this are doctor, teacher and lawyer.

For most academic diplomas, you don't need recognition of your diploma to be able to work in that profession in Germany. These professions are called non-regulated professions (nicht-reglementierte Berufe). Examples of this are IT, Languages or Economy. For these professions, there is no formal procedure for recognition (Gleichwertigkeitsprüfung). When you are looking for a job, companies often want to see whether your diploma is also an academic diploma in Germany too. This can have an effect on your salary. Usually, if your degree is listed in the anabin database, that is enough. You can also request an assessment of your diploma at the Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen, ZAB (Central Office for Foreign Education).

In this [graph of the IQ support program](#) you can see the difference in recognition. The graph is in German.

You Still Haven't Applied for the Recognition or Evaluation of Your Diploma?

You can plan your next steps for recognition with the IQ support program.

Seeing a professional about recognition can help you find out:

- Whether recognition is necessary or useful,
- Whether you need an evaluation of your diploma or if verifying if it is in anabin is enough,
- What documents you need and,
- Whether you need financial support for the recognition or evaluation of your diploma.

On the website called [anerkennung-in-deutschland](#) (recognition in Germany) you can look up professionals that specialize in recognition. The website is available in German, English, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, Polish, Turkish and Greek.

On the website, you can also have a look at the [App](#). You can get more information in English, Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Tigrinya and Pashto about professionals specializing in recognition in your area.

You Have Already Applied for the Recognition or Evaluation of Your Diploma?

Different possibilities are available to you. It depends on your profession.

When you know what options are available to you, you can see a professional about recognition again. The consultant can tell you what the result means and what you can do.

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You Got Your Result and You Want to Start Working?

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A CV also answers three questions:

- When?
- What?
- Where?

For example: When, what and where did you study? When, what, where did you work?

There are different ways to find a job. More information about finding a job can be found in the Hop-on Compass [Vocational Training](#).

Need Help with Your Application?

If you are registered with the Employment Agency or with the Jobcenter, there are different possibilities - for example job application training.

If you haven't registered with the Employment Agency or the Jobcenter yet, you can still declare at the Employment Agency that you are ""arbeitsuchend" (looking for a job). You will not receive any unemployment benefits but you can get some

help and advice. The Employment Agency can also finance job application training. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding.

[How do I register with the Employment Agency?](#)

You Received Your Result and You Want to Continue Studying or Study German?

In almost all of the German Federal States, there are institutions that give advice about education. This advice is called Bildungsberatung (advice about education).

When you get advice about education, you can ask a counselor any questions you have about continuing to study or learning German.

A list of advisory centers can be found in the [Hop-on Vocational Training Compass](#).

The IQ support program also has qualification possibilities for graduates. On the website called [Anerkennung in Deutschland](#) (recognition in Germany) you can also look for other options. The website is in German.

What can I do now?

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2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Contact an advice center for more information.

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

25.07.2017

SmAAAO_AC

You already have a diploma from a university and you don't want to continue studying. You have been to see a professional about recognition. Your diploma can't be recognized. You have a temporary permission to stay or an exceptional leave to remain.

A (recognised) diploma is always necessary if you want to work. However, there are some jobs for which you need a diploma. A lot of companies are looking to hire people with diplomas.

Hop-on focuses on getting certification (professional certification and academic certification). That is why there is not a lot of information on finding and applying for a job on Hop-on. Some information can be found in the [Hop-on Vocational Training Compass](#).

1 Did You See a Professional About Recognition at the IQ Support Program?

There are differences between recognition for professional diplomas (vocational training) and academic diplomas (studies). Recognition or to recognize means that you compare your diploma from another country to a diploma from Germany.

For most academic diplomas, formal recognition doesn't exist. You can check if your diploma is in the anabin database. You can request an evaluation of your diploma at the Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen, ZAB (Central Office for Foreign Education). The ZAB checks whether your diploma also counts as a diploma in Germany.

The most important requirements for recognition or an evaluation of your diploma are:

- That your studies were done in a state-recognized institution,
- That you finished your studies.

There are many different relevant authorities. A relevant authority is an institution that is responsible for the vocational training or studies of a particular profession.

It is sometimes difficult to find the right institution. That is why you can see a professional about recognition. There are different institutions that can give you advice about recognition.

The Förderprogramm Integration durch Qualifizierung, (IQ support program for integration through qualification), IQ, is the main program that handles advice about recognition. The IQ support program has advice centers in all of the German Federal States.

If you still haven't seen a professional about recognition at the IQ support program, you should ask to see one.

On the website called [anerkennung-in-deutschland](#) (recognition in Germany) you can look up professionals that specialize in recognition. The website is available in German, English, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, Polish, Turkish and Greek.

On the website, you can also have a look at the [App](#). You can get more information in English, Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Tigrinya and Pashto about professionals specializing in recognition in your area.

2 Have You Decided Whether You Want to Get a German Degree?

Sometimes getting your diploma recognized or evaluated isn't a possibility.

For example if:

- Your studies weren't at a state-recognized institution,
- Your studies count as vocational training or are organised in a different way in Germany, or
- There are too many differences between your completed studies and the studies in Germany.

Without an official diploma, it's hard to find a good job in Germany. A good job means, for example, that you earn more money or have better working conditions than someone without an official diploma.

If you want to get a degree, you can:

- Learn a profession and get a professional degree or
- Study again and get an academic degree.

Professional Degrees

For adults, there are several ways to get a professional degree. These possibilities usually depend on :

- Professional experience in the profession of your choice,
- Specific requirements of the profession and
- Existing offers.

Overall, it is easier to continue to learn a profession for which you already have experience.

For example:

Mrs. M. studied law and her diploma isn't recognized. She can find similar jobs in vocational training - for example, [Solicitor- and notary clerk](#). Vocational training for these professions is 3 years. In these professions, you can also do retraining, for example. Retraining takes 2 years to complete. After 2 years, you can take an exam and get a professional degree. Retraining can be financed by the Employment Agency if you meet special requirements.

In the [Vocational Training Hop-on Compass](#) you can find more information about advice centers and the different ways you can get a professional degree.

Note:

If you want to learn a profession, you need a work permit. A work permit means that the Immigration Office (Ausländerbehörde) gives you permission to work.

In your papers (temporary permission to stay or exceptional leave to remain), it usually says "Beschäftigung nur mit Erlaubnis der Ausländerbehörde" (Employment only with the permission of the Immigration Office). If it says „Beschäftigung nicht gestattet“ or „Erwerbstätigkeit nicht gestattet“ (employment/work are prohibited) in your papers, get legal advice on any further action.

Academic Degrees

You have decided to study again at an institute of higher education?

In the [Hop-on Study Compass](#) you can find information about the requirements and different ways to get a degree.

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print it out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Study Compass or the Hop-on Vocational Training.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Contact an [advice center](#) for more information.

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

Good luck with your future endeavors!

Score

01.09.2017

SmAAAO_B

You already have a diploma from a university and you don't want to continue studying. You have been to see a professional about recognition. Your diploma can't be recognized. You have a residence permit. You don't receive money from a Jobcenter.

A (recognised) diploma is always necessary if you want to work. However, there are some jobs for which you need a diploma. A lot of companies are looking to hire people with diplomas.

Hop-on focuses on getting certification (professional certification and academic certification). That is why there is not a lot of information on finding and applying for a job on Hop-on. Some information can be found in the [Hop-on Vocational Training Compass](#).

1 Did You See a Professional About Recognition at the IQ Support Program?

There are differences between recognition for professional diplomas (vocational training) and academic diplomas (studies). Recognition or to recognize means that you compare your diploma from another country to a diploma from Germany.

For most academic diplomas, formal recognition doesn't exist. You can request an evaluation of your diploma at the Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen, ZAB (Central Office for Foreign Education). The ZAB checks whether your diploma also counts as a diploma in Germany.

The most important requirements for recognition or an evaluation of your diploma are:

- That your vocational training or studies were done in a state-recognized institution,
- That you finished your vocational training or studies.

There are many different relevant authorities. A relevant authority is an institution that is responsible for the vocational training or studies of a particular profession.

It is sometimes difficult to find the right institution. That is why you can see a professional about recognition. There are different institutions that can give you advice about recognition.

The Förderprogramm Integration durch Qualifizierung, (IQ support program for integration through qualification), IQ, is the main program that handles advice about recognition. The IQ support program has advice centers in all of the German Federal States.

If you still haven't seen a professional about recognition at the IQ support program, you should ask to see one.

On the website called [anerkennung-in-deutschland](#) (recognition in Germany) you can look up professionals that specialize in recognition. The website is available in German, English, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, Polish, Turkish and Greek.

On the website, you can also have a look at the [App](#). You can get more information in English, Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Tigrinya and Pashto about professionals specializing in recognition in your area.

2 Have You Decided Whether You Want to Get a German Degree?

Sometimes getting your diploma recognized or evaluated isn't a possibility.

For example if:

- Your studies weren't at a state-recognized institution,
- Your studies count as vocational training or are organised in a different way in Germany, or
- There are too many differences between your completed studies and the studies in Germany.

Without an official diploma, it's hard to find a good job in Germany. A good job means, for example, that you earn more money or have better working conditions than someone without an official diploma.

If you want to get a degree, you can:

- Learn a profession and get a professional degree or
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Professional Degrees

For adults, there are several ways to get a professional degree. These possibilities usually depend on :

- Professional experience in the profession of your choice,
- Specific requirements of the profession and
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Overall, it is easier to continue to learn a profession for which you already have experience.

For example:

Mrs. M. studied law and her diploma isn't recognized. She can find similar jobs in vocational training - for example, [Solicitor- and notary clerk](#) Vocational training for these professions is 3 years. In these professions, you can also do retraining, for example. Retraining takes 2 years to complete. After 2 years, you can take an exam and get a professional degree. Retraining can be financed by the Employment Agency if you meet special requirements.

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We wish you much success on your way!

Score

01.09.2017

SmAAAO_BJC

You already have a diploma from a university and you don't want to continue studying. You have been to see a professional about recognition. Your diploma can't be recognized. You have a residence permit. You receive money from the Jobcenter.

A (recognised) diploma is always necessary if you want to work. However, there are some jobs for which you need a diploma. A lot of companies are looking to hire people with diplomas.

Hop-on focuses on getting certification (professional certification and academic certification). That is why there is not a lot of information on finding and applying for a job on Hop-on. Some information can be found in the [Hop-on Vocational Training Compass](#).

1 Did You See a Professional About Recognition at the IQ Support Program?

There are differences between recognition for professional diplomas (vocational training) and academic diplomas (studies). Recognition or to recognize means that you compare your diploma from another country to a diploma from Germany.

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- That your vocational training or studies were done in a state-recognized institution,
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There are many different relevant authorities. A relevant authority is an institution that is responsible for the vocational training or studies of a particular profession.

It is sometimes difficult to find the right institution. That is why you can see a professional about recognition. There are different institutions that can give you advice about recognition.

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In the [Vocational Training Hop-on Compass](#) you can find more information about advice centers and the different ways you can get a professional degree.

Academic Degrees

You have decided to study again at an institute of higher education?

In the [Hop-on Study Compass](#) you can find information about the requirements and different ways to get a degree.

Note:

If you start to study at an institute of higher education, you will no longer be able to receive unemployment benefits (Arbeitslosengeld II) even if you don't get the BAföG. The rules are available in [§ 22 SGBXII](#).

Whether or not you can receive money from the Jobcenter depends on each individual case. The rules are very complicated. Find out more before you start studying, for example at a social advice center. On the student services website, you can look up more information in [English](#) or [German](#) about social advice given by student services.

What can I do now?

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Recognition or to recognize means that you compare your diploma from another country to a diploma from Germany. For some academic diplomas, you need official recognition to be able to work in that profession in Germany. These professions are called regulated professions (reglementierte Berufe). Examples of this are doctor, teacher and lawyer.

For most academic diplomas, you don't need recognition of your diploma to be able to work in that profession in Germany. These professions are called non-regulated professions (nicht-reglementierte Berufe). Examples of this are IT, Languages or Economy. For these professions, there is no formal procedure for recognition (Gleichwertigkeitsprüfung). When you are looking for a job, companies often want to see whether your diploma is also an academic diploma in Germany too. This can have an effect on your salary.

Before you go see a professional about recognition, you can check if your diploma is in the anabin database. On anabin, you can look up either your [institute of higher education](#) or your [course of study](#). The website is in German.

You can then decide whether you want to get your diploma evaluated at the Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen, ZAB (Central Office for Foreign Education) in Bonn. This evaluation is called [Zeugnisbewertung](#) (certification evaluation).

In this [graph of the IQ support program](#) you can see the difference in recognition. The graph is in German.

The first step is to see a professional at the IQ support program for recognition to inquire

- Whether recognition is necessary or useful,
- Whether you need an evaluation of your diploma or if verifying if it is in anabin is enough,
- What documents you need and,
- Whether you need financial support for the recognition or evaluation of your diploma.

How Much German Do I Need to Know for Getting Advice About Recognition?

Seeing a professional about the recognition of your certificate can usually be done in different languages. However, a lot of the advice is in German. That's why it would be useful to know the basics in German. Check what languages are available before you meet with a professional about recognition. You can always bring an interpreter to help you.

You do not necessarily need a translation of your certificate. But it would be easier for your consultant if it was translated so he/she can plan the next steps with you.

Most of the time, when you are getting your degree/certificates recognized or evaluated, they need a German translation. A common exception is if your documents are in English. The Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen (Central Office for Foreign Education) also accepts documents in Arabic, French, Italian and Spanish.

How Much Does This Cost? Can I Get Any Financial Support?

Seeing a professional about recognition is always free. However other things can cost money. For example, the translation of your documents, the recognition procedure or the evaluation of your documents. The price can vary.

The translation must be done by translators that have a permit issued by the court - they must be sworn translators. You can have a look on bdue.de for sworn translators in German, English and French.

You can also search on this [website](#) for sworn translators in German, English, French, Italian, and Spanish.

The Employment Agency can finance the translation of your documents, the recognition procedure or the evaluation of your documents. However, you don't automatically have a right to funding. You have to show that the translation of your documents or the recognition procedure is important to find a job. Make sure you speak to the Employment Agency about funding before you get your documents translated and before starting your recognition procedure.

If you are not yet registered with the Employment Agency, you can still declare at the Employment Agency that you are ""arbeitsuchend" (looking for a job). You will not receive any unemployment benefits but you can get some help and advice.

[How do I register with the Employment Agency?](#)

Since December 2016, you can receive financial help from the German Federal States if the Employment Agency will not cover the costs. You can find more information in German [here](#).

You Studied but You Don't Have a Diploma for Your Studies?

If you didn't bring any certificates or diplomas with you, you can still prove that you have a university degree. You should see a professional about recognition to see what options are available.

Can I Get a Residency Permit After Recognition or Evaluation of My Documents?

No. Recognition or evaluation of your documents does not influence your residency status.

Where Can I Find More Information?

More general information about Recognition can be found in the chapter called [I have a university degree. Is my degree also a university degree in Germany?](#)

On the website called [anerkennung-in-deutschland](#) (recognition in Germany) you can look up professionals that specialize in recognition. The website is available in German, English, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, Polish, Turkish and Greek.

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What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
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We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

25.07.2017

SmAAB_B

You already have a diploma from a university and you don't want to continue studying. You haven't been to see a professional about recognition yet. You have a residence permit. You don't receive money from a Jobcenter.

Recognition or to recognize means that you compare your diploma from another country to a diploma from Germany. For some academic diplomas, you need official recognition to be able to work in that profession in Germany. These professions are called regulated professions (reglementierte Berufe). Examples of this are doctor, teacher and lawyer.

For most academic diplomas, you don't need recognition of your diploma to be able to work in that profession in Germany. These professions are called non-regulated professions (nicht-reglementierte Berufe). Examples of this are IT, Languages or Economy. For these professions, there is no formal procedure for recognition (Gleichwertigkeitsprüfung). When you are looking for a job, companies often want to see whether your diploma is also an academic diploma in Germany too. This can have an effect on your salary.

Before you go see a professional about recognition, you can check if your diploma is in the anabin database. On anabin, you can look up either your [institute of higher education](#) or your [course of study](#). The website is in German.

You can then decide whether you want to get your diploma evaluated at the Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen, ZAB (Central Office for Foreign Education) in Bonn. This evaluation is called [Zeugnisbewertung](#) (certification evaluation).

In this [graph of the IQ support program](#) you can see the difference in recognition. The graph is in German.

The first step is to see a professional at the IQ support program for recognition to inquire

- Whether recognition is necessary or useful,
- Whether you need an evaluation of your diploma or if verifying if it is in anabin is enough,
- What documents you need and,
- Whether you need financial support for the recognition or evaluation of your diploma.

How Much German Do I Need to Know for Getting Advice About Recognition?

Seeing a professional about the recognition of your certificate can usually be done in different languages. However, a lot of the advice is in German. That's why it would be useful to know the basics in German. Check what languages are available before you meet with a professional about recognition. You can always bring an interpreter to help you.

You do not necessarily need a translation of your certificate. But it would be easier for your consultant if it was translated so he/she can plan the next steps with you.

Most of the time, when you are getting your degree/certificates recognized or evaluated, they need a German translation. A common exception is if your documents are in English. The Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen (Central Office for Foreign Education) also accepts documents in Arabic, French, Italian and Spanish.

How Much Does This Cost? Can I Get Any Financial Support?

Seeing a professional about recognition is always free. However other things can cost money. For example, the translation of your documents, the recognition procedure or the evaluation of your documents. The price can vary.

The translation must be done by translators that have a permit issued by the court - they must be sworn translators. You can have a look on bdue.de for sworn translators in German, English and French.

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Score

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Score

25.07.2017

SmAoSO_A

You studied at a university and you got a degree. You want to continue to study. You know what you want to study. You have a temporary permission to stay.

For every course of study, there are different rules about the language level you need. Most courses are taught in German. Therefore, you need a very good level of German (about a C1 level). You have to take a test to show what your language level in German is. There are several tests that are accepted by institutions of higher education.

Some courses are taught in English. The institutes of higher education usually decide what English level you need and how you have to prove it.

For more information about what language level you need have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Language Level Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

You Have a Bachelors Degree And You Want to Do a Masters?

There are 2 important steps to take before you do a Masters:

1 The Evaluation of Your Diploma In Germany

You need to check whether your diploma also counts as a diploma in Germany.

There are two important steps to take in order to know if your degree is also a degree in Germany and how it is evaluated:

1 Search in the anabin database

In the [anabin](#) database you can get information. You can search for the country and the institute of higher education. The database is in German. It filters through the names of the institutes of higher education.

On anabin, you can look up either your [institute of higher education](#) or your [course of study](#). The website is in German.

There can be multiple results when you search using your course of study.

For each course of study, it evaluates how equivalent the degree is to a German degree. It will say: [bedingt vergleichbar](#), [entspricht oder gleichwertig](#) (somewhat comparable, comparable or equivalent).

If you get "gleichwertig", this is the clearest result. It means that your diploma is of equal value and the same as the German diploma.

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Find out more information directly at the institute of higher education you are applying to.

2 Evaluation of Your Certificates Through the Institute of Higher Education or Uni-Assist

The institute of higher education can determine themselves which documents they need for an application and how the documents need to be evaluated.

Many institutes of higher education use uni-assist to check documents. On uni-assist, you can find a list of institutes of higher education in [German](#) and [English](#).

You can also find information about evaluation of certificates and applying for masters on uni-assist in [German](#) and [English](#).

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Often, for the evaluation of your diploma, you need to get it translated. There can be an exception to this if all of your certificates are in English (and sometimes if they are in French). There are rules for the translation. The translation must be done by translators that have a permit issued by the court - they must be sworn translators. For more information, have a look at the [Study book](#).

2 How to Understand the Technical Requirements for a Master's Degree

In Germany, you can do a "konsekutive Master" (consecutive master's) or a "nicht-konsekutive Master" (non-consecutive master's). Most master's programs are consecutive. Consecutive means that you do a bachelor's in the subject you want to do your master's.

Basically, during a bachelor's, you learn the basics and then when you do a consecutive master's, you specialize in certain topics. That is why a bachelor's degree can also be called an undergraduate degree and a master's degree can be called a postgraduate degree.

For example:

You can only do a Master of Economics if you have done a Bachelor of Economics. Or you can prove that you have learnt the same thing as the bachelor's by showing the diploma you already have.

Non-consecutive master's are often called postgraduate master's. Often, this course of study is for people with professional experience. Sometimes they cost money - even at state-run universities.

You Want to Start a New Course of Study?

If you want to start a new bachelor's degree, you must check whether your diploma Higher Education Entrance Qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung, HZB). If you have a Higher Education Entrance

Qualification it means you have permission to study at an institute of higher education.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What High School Diploma Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

You Have a Master's Degree And You Want to Get a PhD?

Hop-on is mainly for people that don't have a diploma yet. You can find out more information about PhD's here.

You should first check whether your degree is comparable to a degree from a German university (diploma, graduate degree, state-exam or master's). In Germany, you can only get a PhD at university.

The university makes the decision. Mehr Informationen finden Sie auf [Deutsch](#) und [Englisch](#) auf der Webseite Research in Germany.

During Your Studies, What is Important to You?

- Are you more interested in the practical side rather than the theory?
- Do you want or need to work during your studies?
- Do you want to work in a scientific sector in the future?

You can attend many different types of courses in different learning formats at various universities. For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapters called [How can I Get a Degree?](#) und [What Is an Institute of Higher Education?](#)

Do You Know the Conditions of Your Residence Status?

You can start studying if you have met all of the requirements of an institute of higher education and if you have a temporary permission to stay.

You can't get an exceptional leave to remain or a residence permit while for the duration of your studies at an institute of higher education.

You can only get a residence permit for your studies if you apply for it from abroad. Other rules apply for international students or for students that have a study visa.

An exceptional leave to remain can only be obtained for vocational training. Studying for a degree is not vocational training. An exception to this are dual studies. This is when you do both vocational training and study at the same time. You can find more information here [What is dual training?](#) The rules are in the Residence Act ([§60a AufenthG](#)). If you meet specific criteria, you can get an exceptional leave to remain for the duration of your training. An exceptional leave to remain means there is a "suspension of deportation". This means that you can stay for the duration of your vocational training in Germany. This rule only works

for vocational trainings which take at least 2 years. If you find a job as a specialist for your profession, you can get a residence permit for the 2 years after your vocational training.

Find more information before you start your studies at [institutions of higher education or an advice center](#).

2 Do You Know How You Can Finance Your Studies?

Usually, you don't make any money while you study. An exception to this is [dual training](#).

There are different ways to finance your studies. One possibility is getting financial support from the state.

Your residence status influences what financial support you can get (for example BAföG). BAföG is the acronym for the laws that determine how the state's financial aid is used. BAföG stands for [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz \(The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act\)](#).

With an exceptional leave to remain you can't get any BAföG. An exception to this is if, for example, you have already lived or worked in Germany for 5 years or one of your parents has worked here. The rules are available in [§8 BAföG](#).

If you have lived in Germany for 15 months, the beginning of your studies (enrollment) can influence the financial aid you currently get and whether you can get a BAföG ([BAföG-Fälle - Seite 47](#)). The rules are available in [§ 22 SGBXII](#).

If you would like to work after your studies, you need a work permit (Beschäftigungserlaubnis). Having a work permit means that the Immigration Office (Ausländerbehörde) gives you permission to work. In your papers (temporary permission to stay), it usually says "Beschäftigung nur mit Erlaubnis der Ausländerbehörde" (Employment only with the permission of the Immigration Office). If it says „Beschäftigung nicht gestattet“ or „Erwerbstätigkeit nicht gestattet“ (employment/work are prohibited) in your papers, get legal advice on any further action.

Find more information before you start your studies at a [social or legal advice center](#)!

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Good luck with your future endeavors!

Score

01.09.2017

SmAoSO_B

You studied at a university. You have a degree. You would like to continue to study. You know what you want to study. You have a residence permit. You don't receive money from a Jobcenter.

For every course of study, there are different rules about the language level you need. Most courses are taught in German. Therefore, you need a very good level of German (about a C1 level). You have to take a test to show what your language level in German is. There are several tests that are accepted by institutions of higher education.

Some courses are taught in English. The institutes of higher education usually decide what English level you need and how you have to prove it.

For more information about what language level you need have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Language Level Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

You Have a Bachelors Degree And You Want to Do a Masters?

There are 2 important steps to take before you do a Masters:

1 The Evaluation of Your Diploma In Germany

You need to check whether your diploma also counts as a diploma in Germany.

There are two important steps to take in order to know if your degree is also a degree in Germany and how it is evaluated:

1 Search in the anabin database

In the [anabin](#) database you can get information. You can search for the country and the institute of higher education. The database is in German. It filters through the names of the institutes of higher education.

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There can be multiple results when you search using your course of study.

For each course of study, it evaluates how equivalent the degree is to a German degree. It will say: [bedingt vergleichbar](#), [entspricht oder gleichwertig](#) (somewhat comparable, comparable or equivalent).

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Basically, during a bachelor's, you learn the basics and then when you do a consecutive master's, you specialize in certain topics. That is why a bachelor's degree can also be called an undergraduate degree and a master's degree can be called a postgraduate degree.

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You can attend many different types of courses in different learning formats at various universities. For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapters called [How can I Get a Degree?](#) und [What Is an Institute of Higher Education?](#)

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Non-consecutive master's are often called postgraduate master's. Often, this course of study is for people with professional experience. Sometimes they cost money - even at state-run universities.

You Want to Start a New Course of Study?

If you want to start a new bachelor's degree, you must check whether your diploma Higher Education Entrance Qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung, HZB). If you have a Higher Education Entrance Qualification it means you have permission to study at an institute of higher education.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What High School Diploma Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

You Have a Master's Degree And You Want to Get a PhD?

Hop-on is mainly for people that don't have a diploma yet. You can find out more information about PhD's here.

You should first check whether your degree is comparable to a degree from a German university (diploma, graduate degree, state-exam or master's). In Germany, you can only get a PhD at university.

The university makes the decision. Mehr Informationen finden Sie auf [Deutsch](#) und [Englisch](#) auf der Webseite Research in Germany.

2 Do You Know How You Can Finance Your Studies?

Usually, you don't make any money while you study. An exception to this is [dual training](#).

There are different ways to finance your studies. One possibility is getting financial support from the state like with the BAföG.

BAföG is the acronym for the laws that determine how the state's financial aid is used. BAföG stands for [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz \(The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act\)](#).

For the BAföG, you have to meet certain requirements. You can find the rules in the The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act ([§§ 8, 9 und 10 BAföG](#)).

You can find more information about financial aid you can have a look at [What is studying full-time?](#) for example

Note:

If you start to study at an institute of higher education, you will no longer be able to receive unemployment benefits (Arbeitslosengeld II) even if you don't get the BAföG. The rules are available in [§ 27 SGBXII](#).

Whether or not you can receive money from the Jobcenter depends on each individual case. The rules are very complicated. Find out more before you start studying, for example at a social advice center. On the student services website, you can look up more information in [English](#) or [German](#) about social advice given by student services.

What can I do now?

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4. Find more personally relevant information at an [advice center or directly at an institute of higher education](#).

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

Good luck with your future endeavors!

Information as of

01.09.2017

SmAoSO_C

You studied at a university and you got a degree. You want to continue to study. You know what you want to study. You have an exceptional leave to remain.

For every course of study, there are different rules about the language level you need. Most courses are taught in German. Therefore, you need a very good level of German (about a C1 level). You have to take a test to show what your language level in German is. There are several tests that are accepted by institutions of higher education.

Some courses are taught in English. The institutes of higher education usually decide what English level you need and how you have to prove it.

For more information about what language level you need have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Language Level Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

You Have a Bachelors Degree And You Want to Do a Masters?

There are 2 important steps to take before you do a Masters:

1 The Evaluation of Your Diploma In Germany

You need to check whether your diploma also counts as a diploma in Germany.

There are two important steps to take in order to know if your degree is also a degree in Germany and how it is evaluated:

1 Search in the anabin database

In the [anabin](#) database you can get information. You can search for the country and the institute of higher education. The database is in German. It filters through the names of the institutes of higher education.

On anabin, you can look up either your [institute of higher education](#) or your [course of study](#). The website is in German.

There can be multiple results when you search using your course of study.

For each course of study, it evaluates how equivalent the degree is to a German degree. It will say : [bedingt vergleichbar](#), [entspricht oder gleichwertig](#) (somewhat comparable, comparable or equivalent).

If you get "gleichwertig", this is the clearest result. It means that your diploma is of equal value and the same as the German diploma.

The result you get from anabin can be helpful. However, it isn't an official confirmation that you meet the requirements for university.

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Your Institute of Higher Education or Your Course of Study Isn't on the List?

Find out more information directly at the institute of higher education you are applying to.

2 Evaluation of Your Certificates Through the Institute of Higher Education or Uni-Assist

The institute of higher education can determine themselves which documents they need for an application and how the documents need to be evaluated.

Many institutes of higher education use uni-assist to check documents. On uni-assist, you can find a list of institutes of higher education in [German](#) and [English](#).

You can also find information about evaluation of certificates and applying for masters on uni-assist in [German](#) and [English](#).

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Often, for the evaluation of your diploma, you need to get it translated. There can be an exception to this if all of your certificates are in English (and sometimes if they are in French). There are rules for the translation. The translation must be done by translators that have a permit issued by the court - they must be sworn translators. For more information, have a look at the [Study book](#).

2 How to Understand the Technical Requirements for a Master's Degree

In Germany, you can do a "konsekutive Master" (consecutive master's) or a "nicht-konsekutive Master" (non-consecutive master's). Most master's programs are consecutive. Consecutive means that you do a bachelor's in the subject you want to do your master's.

Basically, during a bachelor's, you learn the basics and then when you do a consecutive master's, you specialize in certain topics. That is why a bachelor's degree can also be called an undergraduate degree and a master's degree can be called a postgraduate degree.

For example:

You can only do a Master of Economics if you have done a Bachelor of Economics. Or you can prove that you have learnt the same thing as the bachelor's by showing the diploma you already have.

Non-consecutive master's are often called postgraduate master's. Often, this course of study is for people with professional experience. Sometimes they cost money - even at state-run universities.

You Want to Start a New Course of Study?

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Qualification it means you have permission to study at an institute of higher education.

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You Have a Master's Degree And You Want to Get a PhD?

Hop-on is mainly for people that don't have a diploma yet. You can find out more information about PhD's here.

You should first check whether your degree is comparable to a degree from a German university (diploma, graduate degree, state-exam or master's). In Germany, you can only get a PhD at university.

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Do You Know the Conditions of Your Residence Status?

You can start studying if you have met all of the requirements of an institute of higher education and if you have an exceptional leave to remain.

You can't get a special exceptional leave to remain or a residence permit for the duration of your studies at an institute of higher education.

You can only get a residence permit for your studies if you apply for it from abroad. Other rules apply for international students or for students that have a study visa.

An exceptional leave to remain can only be obtained for vocational training. Studying for a degree is not vocational training. An exception to this are dual studies. This is when you do both vocational training and study at the same time. You can find more information here [What is dual training?](#) The rules are in the Residence Act ([§60a AufenthG](#)). If you meet specific criteria, you can get an exceptional leave to remain for the duration of your training. An exceptional leave to remain means there is a "suspension of deportation". This means that you can stay for the duration of your vocational training in Germany. This rule only works for vocational trainings which take at least 2 years. If you find a job as a specialist for your profession, you can get a residence permit for the 2 years after your vocational training.

Find more information before you start your studies at [institutions of higher education or an advice center](#).

During Your Studies, What is Important to You?

- Are you more interested in the practical side rather than the theory?
- Do you want or need to work during your studies?

- Do you want to work in a scientific sector in the future?

You can attend many different types of courses in different learning formats at various universities. For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapters called [How can I Get a Degree?](#) und [What Is an Institute of Higher Education?](#)

2 Do You Know How You Can Finance Your Studies?

Usually, you don't make any money while you study. An exception to this is [dual training](#).

There are different ways to finance your studies. One possibility is getting financial support from the state.

Your residence status influences what financial support you can get (for example BAföG). BAföG is the acronym for the laws that determine how the state's financial aid is used. BAföG stands for [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz \(The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act\)](#).

With an exceptional leave to remain, you can get a BAföG if you have lived in Germany for 15 months and you meet all the other requirements. You can find the rules in the The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act ([§§ 8, 9 und 10 BAföG](#)).

If you would like to work after your studies, you need a work permit (Beschäftigungserlaubnis). Having a work permit means that the Immigration Office (Ausländerbehörde) gives you permission to work. In your papers (temporary permission to stay), it usually says "Beschäftigung nur mit Erlaubnis der Ausländerbehörde" (Employment only with the permission of the Immigration Office). If it says „Beschäftigung nicht gestattet“ or „Erwerbstätigkeit nicht gestattet“ (employment/work are prohibited) in your papers, get legal advice on any further action.

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Good luck with your future endeavors!

Score

01.09.2017

SmASO_A

You studied at a university and you got a degree. You want to continue to study. You don't know what you want to study yet. You have a temporary permission to stay.

How Can I Decide What to Study?

Deciding what to study is not easy. You can base your decision on many different criteria. You can turn these criteria into questions to ask yourself :

1 Bachelor's or Master's

- Do you want to specialize in a master's?
- Do you want to start a new course of study?

You can find out more information about the requirements in the text below.

2 Subjects

Choosing what subjects to study is particularly difficult:

- What subjects were you interested in at school?
- What subject would you like to specialize in?
- What do you enjoy doing?

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [How can I Decide What to Study?](#)

3 Path

You can attend many different types of courses in different learning formats at various universities. The differences are mainly in how important the theory is as opposed to more practical skills or in the possibilities available after the studies you do.

If your chosen course of study offers different types of learning, you can ask yourself the following questions:

- Are you more interested in the practical side rather than the theory?
- Do you want or need to work during your studies?

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapters called [How can I Get a Degree?](#) und [What Is an Institute of Higher Education?](#)

4 Professional Goal

The main goal of your studies is to find a good job after you get your diploma.

A postgraduate degree can give you the opportunity to get an even better job. Sometimes you have to have a master's degree - for example, if you want to work in a scientific sector. A master's degree is however not always a requirement to find a job.

You can talk to people that work in the profession you want to work in. You can ask them what they studied or learnt and how they found a job. With that information you will be able to know what you still need to do to work in this profession in the future.

If you don't know anyone personally, you can also have a look on the internet. On [whatchado.com](https://www.whatchado.com), you can watch video. In the videos, people talk about what professions they have and how they got them, for example [Steuerberater](#) (tax consultant) or [IT Projektmanager](#) (project manager). It is an Austrian website so a lot of people speak Austrian German. There are some videos in English and other languages.

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Basically, during a bachelor's, you learn the basics and then when you do a consecutive master's, you specialize in certain topics. That is why a bachelor's degree can also be called an undergraduate degree and a master's degree can be called a postgraduate degree.

For example:

You can only do a Master of Economics if you have done a Bachelor of Economics. Or you can prove that you have learnt the same thing as the bachelor's by showing the diploma you already have.

Non-consecutive master's are often called postgraduate master's. Often, this course of study is for people with professional experience. Sometimes they cost money - even at state-run universities.

You Want to Start a New Course of Study?

If you want to start a new bachelor's degree, you must check whether your diploma Higher Education Entrance Qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung, HZB). If you have a Higher Education Entrance Qualification it means you have permission to study at an institute of higher education.

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You Have a Master's Degree And You Want to Get a PhD?

Hop-on is mainly for people that don't have a diploma yet. You can find out more information about PhD's here.

You should first check whether your degree is comparable to a degree from a German university (diploma, graduate degree, state-exam or master's). In Germany, you can only get a PhD at university.

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Do You Know the Conditions of Your Residence Status?

You can start studying if you have met all of the requirements of an institute of higher education and if you have a temporary permission to stay.

You can't get an exceptional leave to remain or a residence permit while for the duration of your studies at an institute of higher education.

You can only get a residence permit for your studies if you apply for it from abroad. Other rules apply for international students or for students that have a study visa.

An exceptional leave to remain can only be obtained for vocational training. Studying for a degree is not vocational training. An exception to this are dual studies. This is when you do both vocational training and study at the same time. You can find more information here [What is dual training?](#) The rules are in the Residence Act ([§60a AufenthG](#)). If you meet specific criteria, you can get an exceptional leave to remain for the duration of your training. An exceptional leave to remain means there is a "suspension of deportation". This means that you can stay for the duration of your vocational training in Germany. This rule only works for vocational trainings which take at least 2 years. If you find a job as a specialist for your profession, you can get a residence permit for the 2 years after your vocational training.

Find more information before you start your studies at [institutions of higher education or an advice center](#).

Do You Know How You Can Finance Your Studies?

Usually, you don't make any money while you study. An exception to this is [dual training](#).

There are different ways to finance your studies. One possibility is getting financial support from the state.

Your residence status influences what financial support you can get (for example BAföG). BAföG is the acronym for the laws that determine how the state's financial aid is used. BAföG stands for [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz \(The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act\)](#).

With an exceptional leave to remain you can't get any BAföG. An exception to this is if, for example, you have already lived or worked in Germany for 5 years or one of your parents has worked here. The rules are available in [§8 BAföG](#).

If you have lived in Germany for 15 months, the beginning of your studies (enrollment) can influence the financial aid you currently get and whether you can get a BAföG ([BAföG-Fälle - Seite 47](#)). The rules are available in [§ 22 SGBXII](#).

If you would like to work after your studies, you need a work permit (Beschäftigungserlaubnis). Having a work permit means that the Immigration Office (Ausländerbehörde) gives you permission to work. In your papers (temporary permission to stay), it usually says "Beschäftigung nur mit Erlaubnis der Ausländerbehörde" (Employment only with the permission of the Immigration Office). If it says „Beschäftigung nicht gestattet“ or „Erwerbstätigkeit nicht gestattet“ (employment/work are prohibited) in your papers, get legal advice on any further action.

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Good luck with your future endeavors!

Score

01.09.2017

SmASO_B

You studied at a university. You have a degree. You would like to continue to study. You don't know what you want to study. You have a residence permit. You don't receive money from a Jobcenter.

How Can I Decide What to Study?

Deciding what to study is not easy. You can base your decision on many different criteria. You can turn these criteria into questions to ask yourself:

1 Bachelor's or Master's

- Do you want to specialize in a master's?
- Do you want to start a new course of study?

You can find out more information about the requirements in the text below.

2 Subjects

Choosing what subjects to study is particularly difficult:

- What subjects were you interested in at school?
- What subject would you like to specialize in?
- What do you enjoy doing?

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [How can I Decide What to Study?](#)

3 Path

You can attend many different types of courses in different learning formats at various universities. The differences are mainly in how important the theory is as opposed to more practical skills or in the possibilities available after the studies you do.

If your chosen course of study offers different types of learning, you can ask yourself the following questions:

- Are you more interested in the practical side rather than the theory?
- Do you want or need to work during your studies?

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapters called [How can I Get a Degree?](#) und [What Is an Institute of Higher Education?](#)

4 Professional Goal

The main goal of your studies is to find a good job after you get your diploma.

A postgraduate degree can give you the opportunity to get an even better job. Sometimes you have to have a master's degree - for example, if you want to work in a scientific sector. A master's degree is however not always a requirement to find a job.

You can talk to people that work in the profession you want to work in. You can ask them what they studied or learnt and how they found a job. With that information you will be able to know what you still need to do to work in this profession in the future.

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For the BAföG, you have to meet certain requirements. You can find the rules in the The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act ([§§ 8, 9 und 10 BAföG](#)).

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Good luck with your future endeavors!

Information as of

01.09.2017

SmASO_BJC

You studied at a university. You have a degree. You would like to continue to study. You don't know what you want to study. You have a residence permit. You receive money from the Jobcenter.

How Can I Decide What to Study?

Deciding what to study is not easy. You can base your decision on many different criteria. You can turn these criteria into questions to ask yourself:

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2 Subjects

Choosing what subjects to study is particularly difficult:

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3 Path

You can attend many different types of courses in different learning formats at various universities. The differences are mainly in how important the theory is as opposed to more practical skills or in the possibilities available after the studies you do.

If your chosen course of study offers different types of learning, you can ask yourself the following questions:

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You need to check whether your diploma also counts as a diploma in Germany.

There are two important steps to take in order to know if your degree is also a degree in Germany and how it is evaluated:

1 Search in the anabin database

In the [anabin](#) database you can get information. You can search for the country and the institute of higher education. The database is in German. It filters through the names of the institutes of higher education.

On anabin, you can look up either your [institute of higher education](#) or your [course of study](#). The website is in German.

There can be multiple results when you search using your course of study.

For each course of study, it evaluates how equivalent the degree is to a German degree. It will say: [bedingt vergleichbar](#), [entspricht oder gleichwertig](#) (somewhat comparable, comparable or equivalent).

If you get "gleichwertig", this is the clearest result. It means that your diploma is of equal value and the same as the German diploma.

The result you get from anabin can be helpful. However, it isn't an official confirmation that you meet the requirements for university.

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Your Institute of Higher Education or Your Course of Study Isn't on the List?

Find out more information directly at the institute of higher education you are applying to.

2 Evaluation of Your Certificates Through the Institute of Higher Education or Uni-Assist

The institute of higher education can determine themselves which documents they need for an application and how the documents need to be evaluated.

Many institutes of higher education use uni-assist to check documents. On uni-assist, you can find a list of institutes of higher education in [German](#) and [English](#).

You can also find information about evaluation of certificates and applying for masters on uni-assist in [German](#) and [English](#).

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Often, for the evaluation of your diploma, you need to get it translated. There can be an exception to this if all of your certificates are in English (and sometimes if they are in French). There are rules for the translation. The translation must be done by translators that have a permit issued by the court - they must be sworn translators. For more information, have a look at the [Study book](#).

2 How to Understand the Technical Requirements for a Master's Degree

In Germany, you can do a "konsekutive Master" (consecutive master's) or a "nicht-konsekutive Master" (non-consecutive master's). Most master's programs are consecutive. Consecutive means that you do a bachelor's in the subject you want to do your master's.

Basically, during a bachelor's, you learn the basics and then when you do a consecutive master's, you specialize in certain topics. That is why a bachelor's degree can also be called an undergraduate degree and a master's degree can be called a postgraduate degree.

For example:

You can only do a Master of Economics if you have done a Bachelor of Economics. Or you can prove that you have learnt the same thing as the bachelor's by showing the diploma you already have.

Non-consecutive master's are often called postgraduate master's. Often, this course of study is for people with professional experience. Sometimes they cost money - even at state-run universities.

You Want to Start a New Course of Study?

If you want to start a new bachelor's degree, you must check whether your diploma Higher Education Entrance Qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung, HZB). If you have a Higher Education Entrance Qualification it means you have permission to study at an institute of higher education.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What High School Diploma Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

You Have a Master's Degree And You Want to Get a PhD?

Hop-on is mainly for people that don't have a diploma yet. You can find out more information about PhD's here.

You should first check whether your degree is comparable to a degree from a German university (diploma, graduate degree, state-exam or master's). In Germany, you can only get a PhD at university.

The university makes the decision. Mehr Informationen finden Sie auf [Deutsch](#) und [Englisch](#) auf der Webseite Research in Germany.

2 Do You Know How You Can Finance Your Studies?

Usually, you don't make any money while you study. An exception to this is [dual training](#).

There are different ways to finance your studies. One possibility is getting financial support from the state (called BAföG).

BAföG is the acronym for the laws that determine how the state's financial aid is used. BAföG stands for [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz \(The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act\)](#).

For the BAföG, you have to meet certain requirements. You can find the rules in the The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act ([§§ 8, 9 und 10 BAföG](#)).

You can find more information about financial aid you can have a look at [What is studying full-time?](#) for example

Note:

If you start to study at an institute of higher education, you will no longer be able to receive unemployment benefits (Arbeitslosengeld II) even if you don't get the BAföG. The rules are available in [§ 27 SGBXII](#).

Whether or not you can receive money from the Jobcenter depends on each individual case. The rules are very complicated. Find out more before you start studying, for example at a social advice center. On the student services website, you can look up more information in [English](#) or [German](#) about social advice given by student services.

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Good luck with your future endeavors!

Information as of

01.09.2017

SmASO_C

You studied at a university and you got a degree. You want to continue to study.
You don't know what you want to study. You have an exceptional leave to remain.

You Have a Bachelors Degree And You Want to Do a Masters?

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How Can I Decide What to Study?

Deciding what to study is not easy. You can base your decision on many different criteria. You can turn these criteria into questions to ask yourself:

1 Subjects

Choosing what subjects to study is particularly difficult:

- What subjects were you interested in at school?
- What subject would you like to specialize in?
- What do you enjoy doing?

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [How can I Decide What to Study?](#)

2 Path

You can attend many different types of courses in different learning formats at various universities. The differences are mainly in how important the theory is as opposed to more practical skills or in the possibilities available after the studies you do.

If your chosen course of study offers different types of learning, you can ask yourself the following questions:

- Are you more interested in the practical side rather than the theory?
- Do you want or need to work during your studies?

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapters called [How can I Get a Degree?](#) und [What Is an Institute of Higher Education?](#)

3 Professional Goal

The main goal of your studies is to find a good job after you get your diploma.

A postgraduate degree can give you the opportunity to get an even better job. Sometimes you have to have a master's degree - for example, if you want to work in a scientific sector. A master's degree is however not always a requirement to find a job.

You can talk to people that work in the profession you want to work in. You can ask them what they studied or learnt and how they found a job. With that information you will be able to know what you still need to do to work in this profession in the future.

If you don't know anyone personally, you can also have a look on the internet. On [whatchado.com](https://www.whatchado.com), you can watch video. In the videos, people talk about what professions they have and how they got them, for example [Steuerberater](#) (tax consultant) or [IT Projektmanager](#) (project manager). It is an Austrian website so a lot of people speak Austrian German. There are some videos in English and other languages.

2 Do You Know the Conditions of Your Residence Status?

You can start studying if you have met all of the requirements of an institute of higher education and if you have an exceptional leave to remain.

You can't get a special exceptional leave to remain or a residence permit for the duration of your studies at an institute of higher education.

You can only get a residence permit for your studies if you apply for it from abroad. Other rules apply for international students or for students that have a study visa.

An exceptional leave to remain can only be obtained for vocational training. Studying for a degree is not vocational training. An exception to this are dual studies. This is when you do both vocational training and study at the same time. You can find more information here [What is dual training?](#) The rules are in the Residence Act ([§60a AufenthG](#)). If you meet specific criteria, you can get an exceptional leave to remain for the duration of your training. An exceptional leave to remain means there is a "suspension of deportation". This means that you can stay for the duration of your vocational training in Germany. This rule only works for vocational trainings which take at least 2 years. If you find a job as a specialist for your profession, you can get a residence permit for the 2 years after your vocational training.

Find more information before you start your studies at [institutions of higher education or an advice center](#).

2 Do You Know How You Can Finance Your Studies?

Usually, you don't make any money while you study. An exception to this is [dual training](#).

There are different ways to finance your studies. One possibility is getting financial support from the state.

Your residence status influences what financial support you can get (for example BAföG). BAföG is the acronym for the laws that determine how the state's financial aid is used. BAföG stands for [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz](#) (The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act).

With an exceptional leave to remain, you can get a BAföG if you have lived in Germany for 15 months and you meet all the other requirements. You can find the rules in the The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act ([§§ 8, 9 und 10 BAföG](#)).

If you would like to work after your studies, you need a work permit (Beschäftigungserlaubnis). Having a work permit means that the Immigration Office (Ausländerbehörde) gives you permission to work. In your papers (temporary permission to stay), it usually says "Beschäftigung nur mit Erlaubnis der Ausländerbehörde" (Employment only with the permission of the Immigration Office). If it says „Beschäftigung nicht gestattet“ or „Erwerbstätigkeit nicht gestattet“ (employment/work are prohibited) in your papers, get legal advice on any further action.

Find more information before you start your studies at a [social or legal advice center](#)!

What can I do now?

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3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Find more personally relevant information at an [advice center or directly at an institute of higher education](#).

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

Good luck with your future endeavors!

Score

01.09.2017

SoAoSO_A

You studied at a university. You did not get a degree. You want to continue studying at a university. You know what you want to study. You have a temporary permission to stay.

There are 5 important questions that you should answer before you start studying:

1 Would You Like to Continue Your Studies Or Start a New Course of Study?

I would like to continue my studies.

If you would like to continue your studies, you can ask the new university for recognition (Anrechnung) of the credit points (Hochschulleistungen) you received from your previous university. Recognition of your points means that the points get transferred so that you might not need to take all of the courses in your course of study or take certain exams. Your studies could therefore be shorter. The most important requirements is that the content of your previous studies is similar.

However, you don't automatically have a right to transfer your points. The rules can be different for each university and course of study.

All of the general rules are on the [Kultursministerkonferenz Website](#) in German.

You can only find individual information at the university you want to study at. You still have to meet all the requirements to study in Germany even if you can transfer your points.

I would like to start a new course of study.

For a new course of study, you have to meet certain requirements.

2 Do you meet all the requirements?

The most important conditions for starting a course of study are:

a) Higher Education Entrance Qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung, HZB)

If you have a Higher Education Entrance Qualification it means you have permission to study at an institute of higher education.

If you finished your upper secondary education in another country, for example with a high school diploma, you have to check whether it counts as a higher education entrance qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung) in Germany.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What High School Diploma Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

b) Language Level (German and/or English)

Most courses are taught in German. Therefore, you need a very good level of German (about a C1 level). You have to take a test to show what your language level in German is. There are several tests that are accepted by institutions of higher education.

Some courses are taught in English. The institutes of higher education usually decide what English level you need and how you have to prove it.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Language Level Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

Tip:

For some courses, you have to meet additional requirements.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Other Requirements and Rules Are There?](#)

What can I do if I did not meet the requirements?

It depends on which conditions you still have to meet:

- Higher Education Entrance Qualification
- Language Level or
- Special conditions required by a degree.

For more information have a look at [How Can I Prepare For My Studies?](#)

3 Do You Know the Conditions of Your Residence Status?

You can start studying if you have met all of the requirements of an institute of higher education and if you have a temporary permission to stay.

You can't get an exceptional leave to remain or a residence permit while for the duration of your studies at an institute of higher education.

You can only get a residence permit for your studies if you apply for it from abroad. Other rules apply for international students or for students that have a study visa.

An exceptional leave to remain can only be obtained for vocational training. Studying for a degree is not vocational training. An exception to this are training integrated dual studies. This is when you do both vocational training and study at the same time. You can find more information here [What is dual training?](#) The rules are in the Residence Act ([§60a AufenthG](#)). If you meet specific criteria, you can get an exceptional leave to remain for the duration of your training. An exceptional leave to remain means there is a "suspension of deportation". This means that you can stay for the duration of your vocational training in Germany. This rule only works for vocational trainings which take at least 2 years. If you find a job as a specialist for your profession, you can get a residence permit for the 2 years after your vocational training.

Find more information before you start your studies at [institutions of higher education or an advice center](#).

4 Do You Know How You Can Finance Your Studies?

Usually, you don't make any money while you study. An exception to this is [dual studies](#).

There are different ways to finance your studies. One possibility is getting financial support from the state.

Your residence status influences what financial support you can get (for example BAföG). BAföG is the acronym for the laws that determine how the state's financial aid is used. BAföG stands for [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz \(The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act\)](#).

With an exceptional leave to remain you can't get any BAföG. An exception to this is if, for example, you have already lived or worked in Germany for 5 years or one of your parents has worked here. The rules are available in [§8 BAföG](#).

If you have lived in Germany for 15 months, the beginning of your studies (enrollment) can influence the financial aid you currently get and whether you can get a BAföG ([BAföG-Fälle - Seite 47](#)). The rules are available in [§ 22 SGBXII](#).

Find more information before you start your studies at a [social or legal advice center](#)!

Note:

If you want to work during your studies, you will need an employment permit. An employment permit from the Immigration Office is proof that you are allowed to work.

In your papers (temporary permission to stay), it usually says "Beschäftigung nur mit Erlaubnis der Ausländerbehörde" (Employment only with the permission of the Immigration Office). If it says „Beschäftigung nicht gestattet“ or „Erwerbstätigkeit nicht gestattet“ (employment/work are prohibited) in your papers, get legal advice on any further action.

5 During Your Studies, What is Important to You?

- Are you more interested in the practical side rather than the theory?
- Do you want or need to work during your studies?
- Do you prefer to learn in small groups?

You can attend many different types of courses in different learning formats at various universities. For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapters called [How can I Get a Degree?](#) und [What Is an Institute of Higher Education?](#)

What Can I Do if the Studies I Want To Do Are Unavailable To Me Or I Don't Want to Start Them Right Now?

You still do not meet requirements or haven't gotten accepted?

There are many ways in which you can prepare for your studies. You can find out more at [How to prepare for your studies?](#)

You are thinking about alternatives?

In Germany, there is a difference between:

- Vocational training (Ausbildung) with the aim of getting a professional degree and,
- Academic training (Studium) with the aim of getting a university degree.

If you want to be a doctor, lawyer or an engineer, you need to get a university degree.

If you want to work in the general field of health, law or engineering, you can either get a degree (through studies) or a professional degree (through vocational training).

The German system for vocational training is special. In particular the system put in place for dual training as this type of vocational training doesn't exist in most other countries.

People can still get a degree through vocational training even if they are not studying at a university.

Vocational training is a great option for people who don't study because

- they can't (for example, don't have a Higher Education Entrance Qualification) or
- they don't want to (for example, they would rather learn in a more practical way and work).

With a professional degree you can also find a good job and work as a professional. You can still decide to continue to study later on.

For adults, vocational training is a good option but there are also several other ways to get a professional degree. These possibilities usually depend on :

- Professional experience in the profession of your choice,
- Specific requirements of the profession and
- Existing offers.

In the [Vocational Training Hop-on Compass](#) you can find more information about advice centers and the different ways you can get a professional degree.

What can I do now?

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We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

01.09.2017

SoAoSO_B

You studied at a university. You did not get a degree. You would like to continue to study. You know what you want to study. You have a residence permit. You don't receive money from a Jobcenter.

We have to ask you 4 important questions before you start studying:

1 Would You Like to Continue Your Studies Or Start a New Course of Study?

I would like to continue my studies.

If you would like to continue your studies, you can ask the new university for recognition (Anrechnung) of the credit points (Hochschulleistungen) you received from your previous university. Recognition of your points means that the points get transferred so that you might not need to take all of the courses in your course of study or take certain exams. Your studies could therefore be shorter. The most important requirement is that the content of your previous studies is similar.

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You can only find individual information at the university you want to study at. You still have to meet all the requirements to study in Germany even if you can transfer your points.

I would like to start a new course of study.

For a new course of study, you have to meet certain requirements.

2 Do you meet all the requirements?

The most important conditions to fill for your first studies are:

a) Higher Education Entrance Qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung, HZB)

Meeting the requirements for Higher Education Entrance Qualification means you have permission to study at an institute of higher education.

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For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What High School Diploma Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

b) Language Level (German and/or English)

Most courses are taught in German. Therefore, you need a very good level of German (about a C1 level). You have to take a test to show what your language level in German is. There are several tests that are accepted by institutions of higher education.

Some courses are taught in English. The institutes of higher education usually decide what English level you need and how you have to prove it.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Language Level Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

Tip:

For some courses, you have to meet additional requirements.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Other Requirements and Rules Are There?](#)

What can I do if I did not meet the requirements?

It depends on which conditions you still have to meet:

- Higher Education Entrance Qualification
- Language Level or
- Special conditions required by a degree.

For more information have a look at [How Can I Prepare For My Studies?](#)

3 Do You Know How You Can Finance Your Studies?

Usually, you don't make any money while you study. An exception to this is [dual training](#).

There are different ways to finance your studies. One possibility is getting financial support from the state (called BAföG).

BAföG is the acronym for the laws that determine how the state's financial aid is used. BAföG stands for [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz \(The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act\)](#).

For the BAföG, you have to meet certain requirements. You can find the rules in the The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act ([§§ 8, 9 und 10 BAföG](#)).

You can find more information about financial aid you can have a look at [What is studying full-time?](#) for example

Note:

If you start to study at an institute of higher education, you will no longer be able to receive unemployment benefits (Arbeitslosengeld II) even if you don't get the BAföG. The rules are available in [§ 22 SGBXII](#).

Whether or not you can receive money from the Jobcenter depends on each individual case. The rules are very complicated. Find out more before you start studying, for example at a social advice center. On the student services website, you can look up more information in [English](#) or [German](#) about social advice given by student services.

4 During Your Studies, What is Important to You?

- Are you more interested in the practical side rather than the theory?
- Do you want or need to work during your studies?
- Do you prefer to learn in small groups?

You can attend many different types of courses in different learning formats at various universities. For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapters called [How can I Get a Degree?](#) und [What Is an Institute of Higher Education?](#)

What Can I Do if the Studies I Want To Do Are Unavailable To Me Or I Don't Want to Start Them Right Now?

You still do not meet requirements or haven't gotten accepted?

There are many ways in which you can prepare for your studies. You can find out more at [How to prepare for your studies?](#)

You are thinking about alternatives?

In Germany, there is a difference between:

- Vocational training (Ausbildung) with the aim of getting a professional degree and,
- Academic training (Studium) with the aim of getting a university degree.

If you want to be a doctor, lawyer or an engineer, you need to get a university degree.

If you want to work in the general field of health, law or engineering, you can either get a degree (through studies) or a professional degree (through vocational training).

The German system for vocational training is special. In particular the system put in place for dual training as this type of vocational training doesn't exist in most other countries.

People can still get a degree through vocational training even if they are not studying at a university.

Vocational training is a great option for people who don't study because

- they can't (for example, don't have a Higher Education Entrance Qualification) or
- they don't want to (for example, they would rather learn in a more practical way and work).

With a professional degree you can also find a good job and work as a professional. You can still decide to continue to study later on.

For adults, vocational training is a good option but there are also several other ways to get a professional degree. These possibilities usually depend on :

- Professional experience in the profession of your choice,
- Specific requirements of the profession and
- Existing offers.

In the [Vocational Training Hop-on Compass](#) you can find more information about advice centers and the different ways you can get a professional degree.

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
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4. Find more personally relevant information at an [advice center or directly at an institute of higher education](#).

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

Good luck with your future endeavors!

Information as of

01.09.2017

SoAoSO_C

You didn't get a degree. You want to continue to study. You know what you want to study. You have an exceptional leave to remain.

There are 5 important questions that you should answer before you start studying:

1 Would You Like to Continue Your Studies Or Start a New Course of Study?

I would like to continue my studies.

If you would like to continue your studies, you can ask the new university for recognition (Anrechnung) of the credit points (Hochschulleistungen) you received from your previous university. Recognition of your points means that the points get transferred so that you might not need to take all of the courses in your course of study or take certain exams. Your studies could therefore be shorter. The most important requirement is that the content of your previous studies is similar.

However, you don't automatically have a right to transfer your points. The rules can be different for each university and course of study.

All of the general rules are on the [Kultursministerkonferenz Website](#) in German.

You can only find individual information at the university you want to study at. You still have to meet all the requirements to study in Germany even if you can transfer your points.

I would like to start a new course of study.

For a new course of study, you have to meet certain requirements.

2 Do you meet all the requirements?

The most important conditions to fill for your first studies are:

a) Higher Education Entrance Qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung, HZB)

Meeting the requirements for Higher Education Entrance Qualification means you have permission to study at an institute of higher education.

If you finished your upper secondary education in another country, for example with a high school diploma, you have to check whether it counts as a higher education entrance qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung) in Germany.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What High School Diploma Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

b) Language Level (German and/or English)

Most courses are taught in German. Therefore, you need a very good level of German (about a C1 level). You have to take a test to show what your language level in German is. There are several tests that are accepted by institutions of higher education.

Some courses are taught in English. The institutes of higher education usually decide what English level you need and how you have to prove it.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Language Level Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

Tip:

For some courses, you have to meet additional requirements.

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What can I do if I did not meet the requirements?

It depends on which conditions you still have to meet:

- Higher Education Entrance Qualification
- Language Level or
- Special conditions required by a degree.

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3 Do You Know the Conditions of Your Residence Status?

You can start studying if you have met all of the requirements of an institute of higher education and if you have an exceptional leave to remain.

You can't get a special exceptional leave to remain or a residence permit for the duration of your studies at an institute of higher education.

You can only get a residence permit for your studies if you apply for it from abroad. Other rules apply for international students or for students that have a study visa.

An exceptional leave to remain can only be obtained for vocational training. Studying for a degree is not vocational training. An exception to this are training integrated dual studies. This is when you do both vocational training and study at the same time. You can find more information here [What is dual studies?](#) The rules are in the Residence Act ([§60a AufenthG](#)). If you meet specific criteria, you can get an exceptional leave to remain for the duration of your training. An exceptional leave to remain means there is a "suspension of deportation". This means that you can stay for the duration of your vocational training in Germany. This rule only works for vocational trainings which take at least 2 years. If you find a job as a specialist for your profession, you can get a residence permit for the 2 years after your vocational training.

Find more information before you start your studies at [institutions of higher education or an advice center](#).

4 Do You Know How You Can Finance Your Studies?

Usually, you don't make any money while you study. An exception to this is [dual studies](#).

There are different ways to finance your studies. One possibility is getting financial support from the state.

Your residence status influences what financial support you can get (for example BAföG). BAföG is the acronym for the laws that determine how the state's financial aid is used. BAföG stands for [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz \(The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act\)](#).

With an exceptional leave to remain, you can get a BAföG if you have lived in Germany for 15 months and you meet all the other requirements. You can find the rules in the The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act ([§§ 8, 9 und 10 BAföG](#)).

Find more information before you start your studies at a [social or legal advice center](#)!

Note:

If you want to work during your studies, you will need an employment permit. An employment permit from the Immigration Office is proof that you are allowed to work.

In your papers (temporary permission to stay), it usually says "Beschäftigung nur mit Erlaubnis der Ausländerbehörde" (Employment only with the permission of the Immigration Office). If it says „Beschäftigung nicht gestattet“ or „Erwerbstätigkeit nicht gestattet“ (employment/work are prohibited) in your papers, get legal advice on any further action.

5 During Your Studies, What is Important to You?

- Are you more interested in the practical side rather than the theory?
- Do you want or need to work during your studies?
- Do you prefer to learn in small groups?

You can attend many different types of courses in different learning formats at various universities. For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapters called [How can I Get a Degree?](#) und [What Is an Institute of Higher Education?](#)

What Can I Do if the Studies I Want To Do Are Unavailable To Me Or I Don't Want to Start Them Right Now?

You still do not meet requirements or haven't gotten accepted?

There are many ways in which you can prepare for your studies. You can find out more at [How to prepare for your studies?](#)

You are thinking about alternatives?

In Germany, there is a difference between:

- Vocational training (Ausbildung) with the aim of getting a professional degree and,
- Academic training (Studium) with the aim of getting a university degree.

If you want to be a doctor, lawyer or an engineer, you need to get a university degree.

If you want to work in the general field of health, law or engineering, you can either get a degree (through studies) or a professional degree (through vocational training).

The German system for vocational training is special. In particular the system put in place for dual training as this type of vocational training doesn't exist in most other countries.

People can still get a degree through vocational training even if they are not studying at a university.

Vocational training is a great option for people who don't study because

- they can't (for example, don't have a Higher Education Entrance Qualification) or
- they don't want to (for example, they would rather learn in a more practical way and work).

With a professional degree you can also find a good job and work as a professional. You can still decide to continue to study later on.

For adults, vocational training is a good option but there are also several other ways to get a professional degree. These possibilities usually depend on :

- Professional experience in the profession of your choice,
- Specific requirements of the profession and
- Existing offers.

In the [Vocational Training Hop-on Compass](#) you can find more information about advice centers and the different ways you can get a professional degree.

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3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Find more personally relevant information at an [advice center](#) or [directly at an institute of higher education](#).

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

Good luck with your future endeavors!

Score

01.09.2017

SoASO_A

You studied at a university. You did not get a degree. You want to continue studying at a university. You don't know what you want to study. You have a temporary permission to stay.

How Can I Decide What to Study?

You have already studied. So you should mainly ask yourself 2 questions:

Would you like to continue your studies?

A university can recognize and transfer the credit points (Hochschulleistungen) you received from your previous studies. Recognition of your points means that the points get transferred so that you might not need to take all of the courses in your course of study or take certain exams. Your studies could therefore be shorter. The most important requirement is that the content of your previous studies is similar.

However, you don't automatically have a right to transfer your points. The rules can be different for each university and course of study.

You don't want to continue your studies? You would like to start a new course of study?

If you would like to start a new course of study, transferring your points is not possible.

Deciding what to study is not easy. You can base your decision on many different criteria. You can turn these criteria into questions to ask yourself:

- What **subjects** do I find interesting?
- What **skills** do I have and which ones do I need?
- What type of **learning** and **content** best suits me?
- What **profession** will my degree steer me towards?

Subjects

Choosing what subjects to study is particularly difficult:

- What subjects were you interested in at school?
- What are you good at?
- What do you enjoy doing?

For example:

When you study medicine, biology will be a very big part of what you have to study. Medicine is probably not the best choice for you if you

- didn't do well in biology at school and
- don't enjoy studying biology.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [How can I Decide What to Study?](#)

Path

You can attend many different types of courses in different learning formats at various universities. The differences are mainly in how important the theory is as opposed to more practical skills or in the possibilities available after the studies you do.

If your chosen course of study offers different types of learning, you can ask yourself the following questions:

- Are you more interested in the practical side rather than the theory?
- Do you want or need to work during your studies?
- Do you want to work in a scientific sector in the future?

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapters called [How can I Get a Degree?](#) und [What Is an Institute of Higher Education?](#)

Do you meet all the requirements?

Whether you are continuing your studies or starting a new course of study, the requirements are the same.

The main requirements are:

a) Higher Education Entrance Qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung or "HZB")

If you have a Higher Education Entrance Qualification it means you have permission to study at an institute of higher education.

If you got your high school diploma in another country, you have to check whether it counts as a higher education entrance qualification in Germany.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What High School Diploma Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

b) Language Level (German and/or English)

Most courses are taught in German. Therefore, you need a very good level of German (about a C1 level). You have to take a test to show what your language level in German is. There are several tests that are accepted by institutions of higher education.

Some courses are taught in English. The institutes of higher education usually decide what English level you need and how you have to prove it.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Language Level Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

Tip:

For some courses, you have to meet additional requirements.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Other Requirements and Rules Are There?](#)

What can I do if I did not meet the requirements?

It depends on which conditions you still have to meet:

- Higher Education Entrance Qualification
- Language Level or
- Special conditions required by a degree.

For more information have a look at [How Can I Be Prepared For My Studies?](#)

Do You Know the Conditions of Your Residence Status?

You can start studying if you have met all of the requirements of an institute of higher education and if you have a temporary permission to stay.

You can't get an exceptional leave to remain or a residence permit while for the duration of your studies at an institute of higher education.

You can only get a residence permit for your studies if you apply for it from abroad. Other rules apply for international students or for students that have a study visa.

An exceptional leave to remain can only be obtained for vocational training. Studying for a degree is not vocational training. An exception to this are dual studies. This is when you do both vocational training and study at the same time. You can find more information here [What is dual training?](#) The rules are in the Residence Act ([§60a AufenthG](#)). If you meet specific criteria, you can get an exceptional leave to remain for the duration of your training. An exceptional leave to remain means there is a "suspension of deportation". This means that you can stay for the duration of your vocational training in Germany. This rule only works for vocational trainings which take at least 2 years. If you find a job as a specialist for your profession, you can get a residence permit for the 2 years after your vocational training.

Find more information before you start your studies at [institutions of higher education or an advice center](#).

2 Do You Know How You Can Finance Your Studies?

Usually you are not paid for your studies. An exception to this are [cooperative study programs](#).

There are different ways to finance your studies. One possibility is getting financial support from the state.

Your residence status influences what financial support you can get (for example BAföG). BAföG is the acronym for the laws that determine how the state's financial aid is used. BAföG stands for [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz \(The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act\)](#).

With an exceptional leave to remain you can't get any BAföG. An exception to this is if, for example, you have already lived or worked in Germany for 5 years or one of your parents has worked here. The rules are available in [§8 BAföG](#).

If you have lived in Germany for 15 months, the beginning of your studies (enrollment) can influence the financial aid you currently get and whether you can get a BAföG ([BAföG-Fälle - Seite 47](#)). The rules are available in [§ 22 SGBXII](#).

Find more information before you start your studies at a [social or legal advice center](#)!

Note:

If you want to work during your studies, you will need an employment permit. An employment permit from the Immigration Office is proof that you are allowed to work.

In your papers (temporary permission to stay), it usually says "Beschäftigung nur mit Erlaubnis der Ausländerbehörde" (Employment only with the permission of the Immigration Office). If it says „Beschäftigung nicht gestattet“ or „Erwerbstätigkeit nicht gestattet“ (employment/work are prohibited) in your papers, get legal advice on any further action.

What Can I Do if the Studies I Want To Do Are Unavailable To Me Or I Don't Want to Start Them Right Now?

You still do not meet requirements or haven't gotten accepted?

There are many ways in which you can prepare for your studies. You can find out more at [How to prepare for your studies?](#)

You are thinking about alternatives?

In Germany, there is a difference between:

- Vocational training (Ausbildung) with the aim of getting a professional degree and,
- Academic training (Studium) with the aim of getting an academic degree.

If you want to be a doctor, lawyer or an engineer, you need to get a university degree.

If you want to work in the general field of health, law or engineering, you can either get a degree (through studies) or a professional degree (through vocational training).

The German system for vocational training is special. In particular the system put in place for dual training as this type of vocational training doesn't exist in most other countries.

People can still get a degree through vocational training even if they are not studying at a university.

Vocational training is a great option for people who don't study because

- they can't (for example, don't have a Higher Education Entrance Qualification) or
- they don't want to (for example, they would rather learn in a more practical way and work).

With a professional degree you can also find a good job and work as a professional. You can still decide to continue to study later on.

For adults, vocational training is a good option but there are also several other ways to get a professional degree. These possibilities usually depend on :

- Professional experience in the profession of your choice,
- specific requirements of the profession and
- Existing offers.

In the [Vocational Training Hop-on Compass](#) you can find more information about advice centers and the different ways you can get a professional degree.

What can I do now?

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3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Find more personally relevant information at an [advice center or directly at an institute of higher education](#).

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

Good luck with your future endeavors!

Information as of

01.09.2017

SoASO_B

You studied at a university. You did not get a degree. You would like to continue to study. You don't know what you want to study. You have a residence permit. You don't receive money from a Jobcenter.

How Can I Decide What to Study?

You have already studied. So you should mainly ask yourself 2 questions:

Would you like to continue your studies?

A university can recognize and transfer the credit points (Hochschulleistungen) you received from your previous university. Recognition of your points means that the points get transferred so that you might not need to take all of the courses in your course of study or take certain exams. Your studies could therefore be shorter. The most important requirement is that the content of your previous studies is similar.

However, you don't automatically have a right to transfer your points. The rules can be different for each university and course of study.

You don't want to continue your studies? You would like to start a new course of study?

If you would like to start a new course of study, transferring your points is not possible.

Deciding what to study is not easy. You can base your decision on many different criteria. You can turn these criteria into questions to ask yourself:

- What **subjects** do I find interesting?
- What **skills** do I have and which ones do I need?
- What type of **learning** and **content** best suits me?
- What **profession** will my degree steer me towards?

Subjects

Choosing what subjects to study is particularly difficult:

- What subjects were you interested in at school?
- What are you good at?
- What do you enjoy doing?

For example:

When you study medicine, biology will be a very big part of what you have to study. Medicine is probably not the best choice for you if you

- didn't do well in biology at school and
- don't enjoy studying biology.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [How can I Decide What to Study?](#)

Path

You can attend many different types of courses in different learning formats at various universities. The differences are mainly in how important the theory is as opposed to more practical skills or in the possibilities available after the studies you do.

If your chosen course of study offers different types of learning, you can ask yourself the following questions:

- Are you more interested in the practical side rather than the theory?
- Do you want or need to work during your studies?
- Do you want to work in a scientific sector in the future?

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapters called [How can I Get a Degree?](#) und [What Is an Institute of Higher Education?](#)

Do you meet all the requirements?

Whether you are continuing your studies or starting a new course of study, the requirements are the same.

The main requirements are:

a) Higher Education Entrance Qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung, in short HZB)

If you have a Higher Education Entrance Qualification it means you have permission to study at an institute of higher education.

If you got your high school diploma in another country, you have to check whether it counts as a higher education entrance qualification in Germany.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What High School Diploma Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

b) Language Level (German and/or English)

Most courses are taught in German. Therefore, you need a very good level of German (about a C1 level). You have to take a test to show what your language level in German is. There are several tests that are accepted by institutions of higher education.

Some courses are taught in English. The institutes of higher education usually decide what English level you need and how you have to prove it.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Language Level Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

Tip:

For some courses, you have to meet additional requirements.

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What can I do if I did not meet the requirements?

It depends on which conditions you still have to meet:

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For the BAföG, you have to meet certain requirements. You can find the rules in the The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act (§§ 8, 9 und 10 BAföG).

You can find more information about financial aid you can have a look at [What is studying full-time?](#) for example

Find more information before you start your studies at a [social or legal advice center](#)!

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People can still get a degree through vocational training even if they are not studying at a university.

Vocational training is a great option for people who don't study because

- they can't (for example, don't have a Higher Education Entrance Qualification) or
- they don't want to (for example, they would rather learn in a more practical way and work).

With a professional degree you can also find a good job and work as a professional. You can still decide to continue to study later on.

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You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

01.09.2017

SoASO_BJC

You studied at a university. You did not get a degree. You would like to continue to study. You don't know what you want to study. You have a residence permit. You receive money from the Jobcenter.

How Can I Decide What to Study?

You have already studied. So you should mainly ask yourself 2 questions:

Would you like to continue your studies?

A university can recognize and transfer the credit points (Hochschulleistungen) you received from your previous studies. Recognition of your points means that the points get transferred so that you might not need to take all of the courses in your course of study or take certain exams. Your studies could therefore be shorter. The most important requirement is that the content of your previous studies is similar.

However, you don't automatically have a right to transfer your points. The rules can be different for each university and course of study.

You don't want to continue your studies? You would like to start a new course of study?

If you would like to start a new course of study, transferring your points is not possible.

Deciding what to study is not easy. You can base your decision on many different criteria. You can turn these criteria into questions to ask yourself:

- What **subjects** do I find interesting?
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Choosing what subjects to study is particularly difficult:

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For example:

When you study medicine, biology will be a very big part of what you have to study. Medicine is probably not the best choice for you if you

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For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [How can I Decide What to Study?](#)

Path

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The main requirements are:

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If you have a Higher Education Entrance Qualification it means you have permission to study at an institute of higher education.

If you got your high school diploma in another country, you have to check whether it counts as a higher education entrance qualification in Germany.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What High School Diploma Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

b) Language Level (German and/or English)

Most courses are taught in German. Therefore, you need a very good level of German (about a C1 level). You have to take a test to show what your language level in German is. There are several tests that are accepted by institutions of higher education.

Some courses are taught in English. The institutes of higher education usually decide what English level you need and how you have to prove it.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Language Level Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

Tip:

For some courses, you have to meet additional requirements.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What Other Requirements and Rules Are There?](#)

What can I do if I did not meet the requirements?

It depends on which conditions you still have to meet:

- Higher Education Entrance Qualification
- Language Level or
- Special conditions required by a degree.

For more information have a look at [How can I be prepared for my studies?](#)

Do You Know How You Can Finance Your Studies?

Usually, you don't make any money while you study. An exception to this is [dual training](#).

There are different ways to finance your studies. One possibility is getting financial support from the state (called BAföG).

BAföG is the acronym for the laws that determine how the state's financial aid is used. BAföG stands for [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz \(The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act\)](#).

For the BAföG, you have to meet certain requirements. You can find the rules in the The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act ([§§ 8, 9 und 10 BAföG](#)).

You can find more information about financial aid you can have a look at [What is studying full-time?](#) for example

Note:

If you start to study at an institute of higher education, you will no longer be able to receive unemployment benefits (Arbeitslosengeld II) even if you don't get the BAföG. The rules are available in [§ 22 SGBXII](#).

Whether or not you can receive money from the Jobcenter depends on each individual case. The rules are very complicated. Find out more before you start studying, for example at a social advice center. On the Studierendenwerk (student services) website, you can look up more information in [English](#) or [German](#) about social advice given by Studierendenwerk (student services).

What Can I Do if the Studies I Want To Do Are Unavailable To Me Or I Don't Want to Start Them Right Now?

You still do not meet requirements or haven't gotten accepted?

There are many ways in which you can prepare for your studies. You can find out more at [How to prepare for your studies?](#)

You are thinking about alternatives?

In Germany, there is a difference between:

- Vocational training (Ausbildung) with the aim of getting a professional degree and,
- Academic training (Studium) with the aim of getting an academic degree.

If you want to be a doctor, lawyer or an engineer, you need to get a university degree.

If you want to work in the general field of health, law or engineering, you can either get a degree (through studies) or a professional degree (through vocational training).

The German system for vocational training is special. In particular the system put in place for dual training as this type of vocational training doesn't exist in most other countries.

People can still get a degree through vocational training even if they are not studying at a university.

Vocational training is a great option for people who don't study because

- they can't (for example, don't have a Higher Education Entrance Qualification) or
- they don't want to (for example, they would rather learn in a more practical way and work).

With a professional degree you can also find a good job and work as a professional. You can still decide to continue to study later on.

For adults, vocational training is a good option but there are also several other ways to get a professional degree. These possibilities usually depend on :

- Professional experience in the profession of your choice,
- Specific requirements of the profession and
- Existing offers.

In the [Vocational Training Hop-on Compass](#) you can find more information about advice centers and the different ways you can get a professional degree.

What can I do now?

1. Save the results as a PDF or print them out.
2. Find out more information by reading the Hop-on Compass.
3. If you do not understand, ask a friend.
4. Find more personally relevant information at an [advice center](#) or [directly at an institute of higher education](#).

You couldn't find an answer to your question or you would like help with finding a counselling service? You can [contact us](#).

We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

01.09.2017

SoASO_C

You studied at a university and you didn't get a degree. You want to continue to study. You don't know what you want to study. You have an exceptional leave to remain.

How Can I Decide What to Study?

You have already studied. So you should mainly ask yourself 2 questions:

Would you like to continue your studies?

A university can recognize and transfer the credit points (Hochschulleistungen) you received from your previous studies. Recognition of your points means that the points get transferred so that you might not need to take all of the courses in your course of study or take certain exams. Your studies could therefore be shorter. The most important requirement is that the content of your previous studies is similar.

However, you don't automatically have a right to transfer your points. The rules can be different for each university and course of study.

You don't want to continue your studies? Would you like to start a new course of study?

If you would like to start a new course of study, transferring your points is not possible.

Deciding what to study is not easy. You can base your decision on many different criteria. You can turn these criteria into questions to ask yourself:

- What **subjects** do I find interesting?
- What **skills** do I have and which ones do I need?
- What type of **learning** and **content** best suits me?
- What **profession** will my degree steer me towards?

Subjects

Choosing what subjects to study is particularly difficult:

- What subjects were you interested in at school?
- What are you good at?
- What do you enjoy doing?

For example:

When you study medicine, biology will be a very big part of what you have to study. Medicine is probably not the best choice for you if you

- didn't do well in biology at school and
- don't enjoy studying biology.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [How can I Decide What to Study?](#)

Path

You can attend many different types of courses in different learning formats at various universities. The differences are mainly in how important the theory is as opposed to more practical skills or in the possibilities available after the studies you do.

If your chosen course of study offers different types of learning, you can ask yourself the following questions:

- Are you more interested in the practical side rather than the theory?
- Do you want or need to work during your studies?
- Do you want to work in a scientific sector in the future?

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapters called [How can I Get a Degree?](#) und [What Is an Institute of Higher Education?](#)

Do you meet all the requirements?

Whether you are continuing your studies or starting a new course of study, the requirements are the same.

The main requirements are:

a) Higher Education Entrance Qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung, in short HZB)

If you have a Higher Education Entrance Qualification it means you have permission to study at an institute of higher education.

If you finished your upper secondary education in another country, for example with a high school diploma, you have to check whether it counts as a higher education entrance qualification (Hochschulzugangsberechtigung) in Germany.

For more information have a look at the Study Compass chapter called [What High School Diploma Do I Need For My Studies?](#)

b) Language Level (German and/or English)

Most courses are taught in German. Therefore, you need a very good level of German (about a C1 level). You have to take a test to show what your language level in German is. There are several tests that are accepted by institutions of higher education.

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What can I do if I did not meet the requirements?

It depends on which conditions you still have to meet:

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- Language Level or
- Special conditions required by a degree.

For more information have a look at [How Can I Prepare For My Studies?](#)

Do You Know the Conditions of Your Residence Status?

You can start studying if you have met all of the requirements of an institute of higher education and if you have an exceptional leave to remain.

You can't get a special exceptional leave to remain or a residence permit for the duration of your studies at an institute of higher education.

You can only get a residence permit for your studies if you apply for it from abroad. Other rules apply for international students or for students that have a study visa.

An exceptional leave to remain can only be obtained for vocational training. Studying for a degree is not vocational training. An exception to this are dual studies. This is when you do both vocational training and study at the same time. You can find more information here [What is dual training?](#) The rules are in the Residence Act (§60a AufenthG). If you meet specific criteria, you can get an exceptional leave to remain for the duration of your training. An exceptional leave to remain means there is a "suspension of deportation". This means that you can stay for the duration of the training in Germany. This rule only works for vocational trainings which take at least 2 years. If you find a job as a specialist for your profession, you can get a residence permit for the 2 years after your vocational training.

Find more information before you start your studies at [institutions of higher education or an advice center](#).

Do You Know How You Can Finance Your Studies?

Usually you are not paid for your studies. An exception to this are [cooperative study programs](#).

There are different ways to finance your studies. One possibility is getting financial support from the state.

Your residence status influences what financial support you can get (for example BAföG). BAföG is the acronym for the laws that determine how the state's financial aid is used. BAföG stands for [Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz](#) (The

[Federal Education and Training Assistance Act](#)).

With an exceptional leave to remain, you can get a BAföG if you have lived in Germany for 15 months and you meet all the other requirements. You can find the rules in the The Federal Education and Training Assistance Act ([§§ 8, 9 und 10 BAföG](#)).

If you would like to work alongside your studies, you need a work permit (Beschäftigungserlaubnis). A work permit means that the Immigration Office (Ausländerbehörde) gives you permission to work. In your papers (temporary permission to stay), it usually says "Beschäftigung nur mit Erlaubnis der Ausländerbehörde" (Employment only with the permission of the Immigration Office). If it says „Beschäftigung nicht gestattet“ or „Erwerbstätigkeit nicht gestattet“ (employment/work are prohibited) in your papers, get legal advice on any further action.

Find more information before you start your studies at a [social or legal advice center](#)!

What Can I Do if the Studies I Want To Do Are Unavailable To Me Or I Don't Want to Start Them Right Now?

You do not meet requirements yet or haven't gotten accepted?

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We wish you much success on your way!

Information as of

01.09.2017

Technical Background

The present GitBook can be easily [cloned or shaped differently](#).

Cloning

```
$ git clone https://collaborating.tuhh.de/itbh/hopon-ergebnisse.git
```

Build

To change or add to the files in Gitbook, it is necessary to use `gitbook-cli`.

The following command is sufficient to rebuild the GitBook in the `docs` folder.

```
$ gitbook build . docs/
```

If you encounter error messages, you should install the following plug-ins:

```
$ gitbook install
```