XIPHIAS Immigration

COUNTRY BROCHURE



SKILLED MIGRATION | COUNTRY GUIDE

Germany Skilled Migration

Search for work in Germany on the Opportunity Card, then build your career on an EU Blue Card.

PROGRAMMES	CAPITAL	CURRENCY	LANGUAGE
2	Berlin	Euro (EUR)	German

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Germany at a glance

CAPITAL **Berlin**	POPULATION **84,000,000**
LANGUAGE **German**	CURRENCY **Euro (EUR)**
TIME ZONE **UTC+1**	CLIMATE **Temperate seasonal climate**
PROGRAMMES WE ADVISE ON **2**	LAST UPDATED **1 October 2026**

Overview

Germany is one of Europe's leading destinations for skilled professionals, with strong demand across engineering, IT and healthcare.

Since 1 June 2024 the route for professionals without a job offer is the Opportunity Card (Chancenkarte), which replaced the previous job seeker visa. It gives up to one year in Germany to find work, allows part-time work of up to 20 hours a week and trial employment of up to two weeks per employer, and is open either to holders of a qualification fully recognised in Germany or to applicants who reach 6 points.

Once you hold a qualifying offer, the EU Blue Card is the main destination permit: in 2026 it requires a gross annual salary of €50,700, or €45,934.20 in shortage occupations and for graduates within three years of their degree.

Key points

- The Opportunity Card (Chancenkarte) replaced the job seeker visa on 1 June 2024.
- Up to one year to search, with part-time work of up to 20 hours a week and two-week trial employment allowed.
- Proof of funds of €1,091 a month in 2026, usually through a blocked account.
- EU Blue Card thresholds for 2026: €50,700, or €45,934.20 in shortage occupations and for recent graduates.
- High demand in engineering, IT, healthcare and manufacturing.

Programmes in Germany



Germany EU Blue Card — Work Permit for Graduates and IT Specialists

Work in Germany with a job offer paying €50,700 a year in 2026 (€45,934.20 in shortage jobs or as a recent graduate), and reach permanent residence in as little as 21 months.

1 to 4 months after the job offer



Germany Opportunity Card (Chancenkarte) — Job Search Visa

Up to one year in Germany to find skilled work, with part-time work of up to 20 hours a week allowed while you search.

Several months (no official processing standard)

Overview

Germany welcomes skilled professionals from across the world to contribute to its innovation-driven economy. Whether through the **Opportunity Card** (*Chancenkarte*) to search for work, or the **EU Blue Card** and other work-based permits once you hold an offer, qualified professionals can access a wide range of opportunities.

Why Germany?

- Europe’s largest economy with high demand for qualified professionals
- Clear pathways from temporary visa to **permanent residence (PR)**
- Focus on innovation, technology, and industrial excellence
- High quality of life and strong social benefits

How the application works

1. **Identify the route that fits your profile: the Opportunity Card to search for work, or the EU Blue Card or another work permit if you already hold an offer.**
2. **Gather documents: passport, qualification and recognition evidence, language certificate, proof of funds and health insurance.**
3. **Apply at the German mission or its visa service provider.**
4. **Attend the visa appointment and submit biometrics with your supporting documents.**
5. **Wait for a decision. No official processing time is published; long-stay visas may take several months.**

General requirements

- A qualification fully recognised in Germany, or a foreign degree or state-recognised vocational qualification of at least two years for the points route.
- Points route: German at A1 or English at B2, and at least 6 points.
- Proof of funds of €1,091 a month in 2026 for the Opportunity Card.
- Health insurance covering the stay.
- For the EU Blue Card: a job offer at or above the 2026 salary threshold.

Sectors in demand

- Engineering
- IT
- Healthcare
- Manufacturing
- Science

Questions clients ask

Can I apply for a German visa without a job offer?

Yes. The Opportunity Card (Chancenkarte) lets you enter Germany for up to one year to search for skilled work.

What happened to the Job Seeker Visa?

It was replaced by the Opportunity Card on 1 June 2024. Section 20 of the Residence Act now covers job search only after studies, research, training or qualification recognition in Germany.

Can I work while holding the Opportunity Card?

Yes, up to 20 hours a week, plus trial employment of up to two weeks with each prospective employer.

Can my family accompany me?

The Opportunity Card is individual. A spouse or partner who meets its conditions can apply for a card of their own, and applying together adds a point. Family reunification is planned around the residence permit you move into once employed.

Is German language mandatory?

On the points route you need German at A1 or English at B2. If your qualification is fully recognised in Germany, no language proof is required for the Opportunity Card.



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NEXT STEP

Discuss your Germany options with our Dubai team

Tell us about your profile, family and timeline. We will compare the Germany routes that fit you, set out the full cost in writing and manage the application with you from start to finish.

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CREDENTIALS

- Advising clients on global mobility since 2009; XIPHIAS Immigration DMCC in Dubai since 2017.
- Named Best Immigration Consultant by The Times of India in 2022.
- Canada files handled by a CICC-licensed Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant, licence R516194.
- Australia files handled by a registered migration agent, MARA 1680615.

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