



**Everything you need to know  
before moving to Germany**

# Congratulations and Welcome to Germany!

You have been hired by a German company, and now it's time to prepare for your relocation to Germany. Moving to a new country is a big step, and we want to ensure that you have all the information you need for a smooth transition and a great start in your new home. Below is a comprehensive checklist to guide you through the most important steps before and after your arrival in Germany.

We are happy and excited to have you here!

PS: We would love your positive review on our [Google Business page](#)



# Checklist Glossary

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**1.**

**Before you start  
to relocate**

## 1.1 Find a Job in Germany

The skilled labor shortage in Germany is significant, and the willingness to hire international talent is increasing daily. Globemee has numerous company partners across Germany actively seeking professionals through our platform. Check out our opportunities [here](#). If there is not yet an opportunity that you like, you can register on our platform and get a notification for every jobmatch: <https://globemee.de/talent-signup>

Additionally, you can apply to German companies on popular job platforms.

### **Tips for Your Job Search:**

- **Create a Professional CV:** Ensure your CV is well-organized and highlights your skills and experience effectively.
- **Language:** Make your CV in German or English, depending on the job requirements.
- **Template:** We recommend using a proven CV template to make a great impression. Here is one that works well: [CV Template](#).

By following these tips, you can enhance your chances of landing your dream job in Germany.

## 1.2 Get your Visa

When you find a job with Globemee, we will support you throughout the visa process, including document screening and embassy appointments. If you're handling the visa process on your own, here's a quick overview:

### Visa Overview

- **EU/EEA/Swiss Citizens:** No visa required. You can live, work, and study in Germany, but you'll need a residence permit.
- **Non-EU Citizens:** You can stay for up to 90 days on a tourist visa. For longer stays, you need a long-term visa and residence permit.

### Visa Types for Non-EU Citizens:

- **Work Employment Visa ( Globemee is focused on those visa types)**
- Student Visa
- German Language Course Visa
- Job Seeker Visa
- Freelance Visa
- Scientist/Visiting Scholar Visa
- Medical Treatment Visa
- Family Reunification Visa



For more details check out our visa blog: [Get your Visa](#)

## 1.3 Book Your Flight or Train Ticket


Once your visa is sorted, it's time to book your travel to Germany. Here are some useful resources:

### Flight Booking

- [Momondo](#)
- [Skyscanner](#)
- Google Flights
- For budget options within Europe: [Ryanair](#)

### Train and Bus Booking - Economic Alternative

- [Deutsche Bahn](#) for train travel (49€ Ticket is a cheap option)
- [Flixbus](#) for bus travel
- [Blablacar](#) is shared service from private car drivers

Choose the best option for your needs and budget, and get ready for your journey to Germany! 

## 1.4 Improve Your German Skills

Learning German will greatly enhance your experience in Germany. Here are some essential tips and resources to help you on your language journey:

### 1. Find a Language Partner:

- **Tandem Partners:** Use platforms like Tandem or Speaky to find partners for language exchange.
- **Language Schools and Meetups:** Attend language schools or join local meetups to practice speaking.

### 2. Online Courses and Resources:

- **Babbel:** Offers structured courses with a focus on conversation and practical application. [Explore Babbel](#)
- **Duolingo:** A popular, game-like app for beginners that makes learning fun and interactive. [Try Duolingo](#)
- **Goethe-Institut:** Provides comprehensive courses for all levels with professional teachers and recognized certifications. [Visit Goethe-Institut](#)

### 3. Special Globemee recommendation for LATAM talents:

[Intermania](#) offers group courses with Learn-German-Flat Rate for 50€ per month and motivated teachers.

#### **Tips to speed up your german skills:**

- **Regular Practice:** Consistent daily practice helps you learn and retain the language faster.
- **Multimedia Approaches:** Use a mix of books, films, and music in German.

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**2.**

# **Prepare your relocation**

## 2.1 Find an Apartment 🏠🔑

### Short-Term Rentals

A great way to start is by booking a furnished short-term rental. This allows you to explore your new city and decide where you'd like to live long-term.

#### Advantages of Short-Term Rentals:

- Minimal Paperwork
- Easy Online Booking
- Furnished Apartments

For short-term accommodation, try websites like <https://www.airbnb.de> or [Housing Anywhere](#).

### Long-Term Rentals

When looking for a long-term place, you can either rent an apartment or join a shared flat (WG).

#### Recommended Websites:

- [ImmobilienScout24](#)
- [Immowelt](#)
- [WG-Gesucht](#)
- [Ebay Kleinanzeigen](#)
- Check out Facebook Groups with apartments in your new hometown

**Tipp:** When recently moving to Germany it can be easier to start with a shared apartment (>> [WG-Gesucht](#) and then after approx. 3 months get your own apartment)

## Required Documents:

- ID/Passport
- Recent Pay Slips
- Employment Contract
- Bank Statements
- SCHUFA Credit Report
- Liability Insurance
- Confirmation of No Rent Arrears
- Guarantor Statement

*Use this as a checklist*



### Tip for Application

Compile all these documents into a single PDF to simplify the application process for landlords.



### Beware of Scams

Be cautious of listings that seem too good to be true. Never send money before meeting the landlord or the apartment. Avoid sharing sensitive personal information upfront. Find verifying more tips and our “Cheat Sheet” [here](#): Stay diligent and patient, and you’ll find a great place to call home in Germany!

## 2.2 Get Your Health Insurance

### Overview

In Germany, **everyone must have health insurance, including self-employed individuals and international students.** You have two main options: statutory (public) health insurance and private health insurance. Here's what you need to know:

#### Key Points

- **Mandatory for All:** Everyone living in Germany must have health insurance.
- **Two Types:** Public health insurance and private health insurance.
- **Choice of Providers:** You can choose from various providers who offer similar coverage with slight differences in premiums and additional benefits.

### Public Health Insurance

If you earn less than €66,600 annually, you are required to join a public health insurance scheme. Public insurance typically costs around 8% of your gross income, shared between you and your employer. It also covers your family members.

Popular providers are:

**BARMER**

Barmer

  
Techniker Krankenkasse

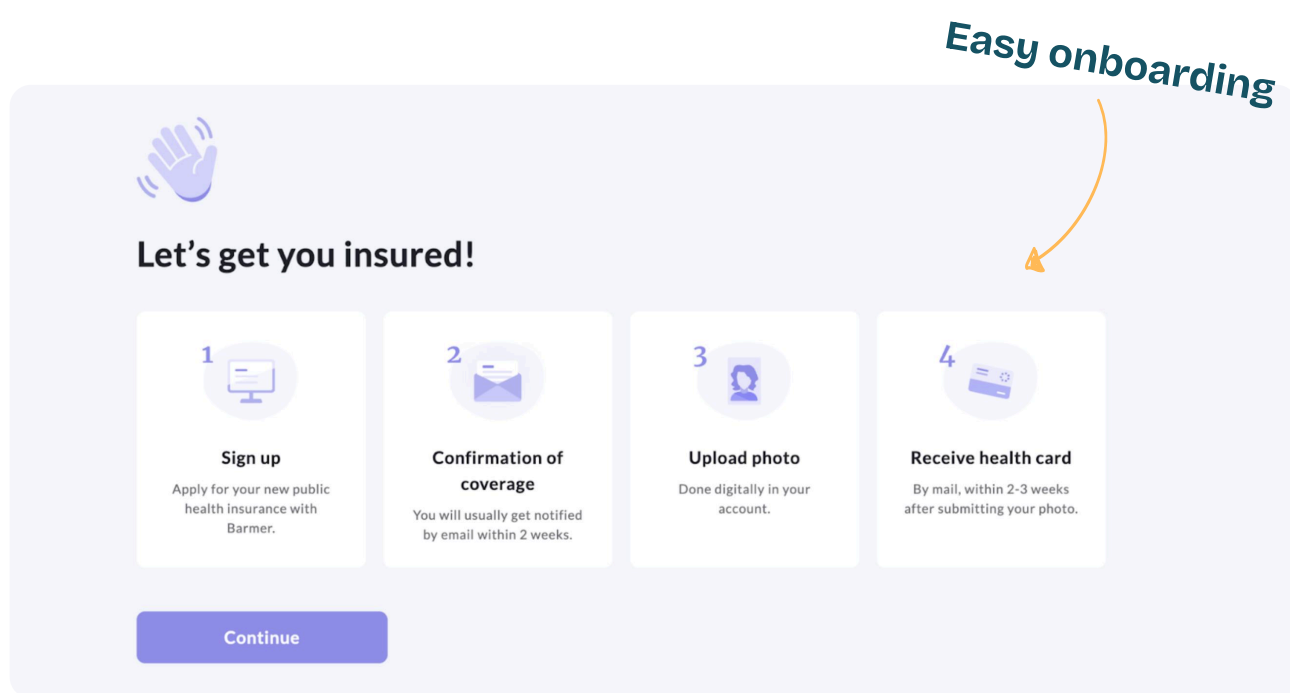
TK (Techniker  
Krankenkasse)

**AOK** 

AOK

## Our Recommendation

Our Recommendation for international talents is **Barmer** as they offer great support in many languages.



[Register here](#) in 3 minutes for BARMER Health insurance.

### **Dental Insurance**

It's also recommended to have dental insurance beside your public health insurance. This insurance covers things like tooth cleaning, prophylaxis, fillings and part of tooth replacements. You can check out more details [here](#).

## Private Health Insurance

If you earn more than €66,600 annually or are self-employed, you can opt for private health insurance. While often more expensive, it offers extensive coverage, shorter wait times, and access to private clinics.

### Private health insurance in Germany

Fully digital application with policy management and support in English.

Get covered

See our prices



Find providers [here](#).

## Required Documents

### ✔ Completed Online Application

Include personal information, employment details, previous insurance details, academic enrollment (if applicable), and a passport photo.

### Bank Details

For setting up direct debit payments.

## 2.3. Get Personal Liability Insurance

Personal liability insurance is **highly recommended in Germany** as it **protects you against claims for damages you might unintentionally cause to others**. It's a small investment that can save you from significant financial liability.

### Costs

**Starting at €4.94 per month:** This affordable insurance is crucial for peace of mind.

### Why you need it

- **Protects Against Claims:** Covers damages you cause to others or their property.
- **Highly Recommended:** Over 85% of Germans have this insurance due to its importance.

Get this insurance [here](#):

Personal liability  
insurance in Germany  
from €4.94 a month

Get coverage in 2 minutes. Cancel monthly.

Get covered

See price



## 2.4 Make Sure You Bring Your Relevant Documents



Ensure you have all the necessary documents for your move to Germany. Bring both the originals and copies of the following important documents:

- **Passport**
- **Visa**
- **Academic Certificates**
- **Employment Contract**

*Use this as a checklist*



Having these documents ready will help facilitate a smooth transition and ensure you can complete necessary procedures without any issues.

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3.

# Arriving to Germany

## 3.1. Open a Bank Account

Opening a bank account in Germany is essential for managing your finances and getting your salary from a German company. Here are the steps and top options for expats and international talents:

### Steps to Open a Bank Account

- 1. Choose Your Bank:** Depending on your preference, select a bank that suits your needs.
- 2. Required Documents:** Typically, you need your passport, visa, proof of address, and employment contract.
- 3. Submit Application:** Visit the bank or apply online to submit your documents and complete the application process.

### Top International -Friendly Banks



- 1. Revolut:** Accepts most people who are not from Germany
- 2. N26:** Easy online setup, ideal for English speakers.
- 3. WISE:** Great for international money transfers and online banking.

#### **Important hint:**

These banks are online banks. This means that you do not have to appear in person to open the account. Just follow the links (click on the orange written name) to get to the website. In some cases, your tax number or residence permit is required to open the account.

## 3.2. Register in the City

### Where You'll Need to Go

Once you've secured a place to live and signed your rental contract, the next crucial step is to register in the city you are moving to. This must be done within the first two weeks of your arrival and finding accommodation. Depending on the city, you may need to visit:

- **Einwohnermeldeamt (Registration Office):** Common in southern states.
- **Bürgerbüro (Civil Office):** Common in northern states.
- **Rathaus (City Hall):** Typically in smaller towns.

### What You'll Need to Bring

- ID and Passport
- Rental Contract (Mietvertrag)
- Completed Registration Form
- Marriage Certificate (original & German translation, if applicable)
- Birth Certificates of Children (original & German translation, if applicable)

### Appointment Setup

- **Book an Appointment:** Often available online or in-person

### After Registration

- **Receive Your Tax ID:** Once registered, you will automatically receive your tax ID number, enabling you to work in Germany.

**IMPORTANT:** If you don't get an official residence at the beginning you need to contact the Finanzamt of your city in order to get the tax ID

## 3.3 Get your SIM Card

Next up, it's time to get a phone plan. Many phone plan providers require payment via debit (not credit), so ensure your bank account is set up before completing this step. Once your account is set up, you will receive your IBAN number, which will be needed for monthly phone payments.

### Which Type of Contract Do You Want?

1. **Prepaid Plans:** Pay per minute/SMS for calling and texting.
2. **Package Plans:** Monthly packages including calling, texting, and data. These often include free monthly cancellation options but do not come with a phone.
3. **All-inclusive Plans (Allnet):** Annual contracts that include calling, texting, and data. These plans often come with a phone and offer higher data usage.

### Pick a Phone Plan

If you don't need a phone with your contract, package plans are highly recommended as they can be cheaper and offer more flexibility (e.g., month-to-month cancellation). Here are some top recommendations to save you time:



- **ALDI Talk:** You get this SIM card directly in the Supermarket "Aldi". The cheapest option is available for 8,99€/month
- **Vodafone:** Reliable network with good coverage and competitive plans.
- **Telekom:** Excellent coverage and service, though often at a higher price.

## 3.4. Get your residence permit (only Non-EU citizens)

Your residence permit is essential for living and working in Germany, separate from your visa. It comes as a plastic card with a biometric chip and is known as either a Niederlassungserlaubnis (permanent residency) or Aufenthaltserlaubnis (temporary residency).


### Steps to Apply for a Residence Permit

- 1. Register at Your Local Office:** Ensure you're registered at your local registration office with your current German address.
- 2. Health Insurance Confirmation:** Obtain confirmation of your German health insurance (Mitgliedsbescheinigung).
- 3. Bank Account Details:** Gather your German bank account details and financial statements.
- 4. Application Form:** Fill out the residence permit application form available in the Welcome Program.
- 5. Book an Appointment:** Schedule an appointment to submit your documents at the immigration office.

### Required Documents

- Completed application form
- Valid passport
- Two passport photographs
- Proof of German language proficiency (if applicable)
- Proof of German health insurance
- Proof of financial stability or support
- Letter of intent (from employer, school, etc.)
- Money for the residence permit application fee

*Use this as a checklist*



## 3.5. Validate Your Driver's License

If you plan to drive in Germany, you'll need to validate your driver's license. Here's how to ensure your license is valid for use:

### Steps to Validate Your Driver's License

- 1. Check Validity:** Determine if your current driver's license is valid in Germany. EU/EEA licenses are typically valid, but non-EU licenses may require validation or conversion.
- 2. Obtain an International Driving Permit (IDP):** If you're from a non-EU/EEA country, an IDP can be helpful for temporary stays. It's not a substitute for a valid license but can be used alongside your home country license.
- 3. Convert Your License:** If you're staying long-term, you might need to convert your license to a German one. The requirements vary based on your home country.

### Required Documents

- **Valid Driver's License:** Your current license from your home country.
- **ID and Passport:** Proof of identity and residence in Germany.
- **Registration Certificate:** Proof that you are registered at your German address.
- **Passport Photos:** Two recent passport-sized photos.
- **Proof of Vision Test:** Certificate from a German optometrist.
- **First Aid Course Certificate:** Completion of a first aid course in Germany.
- **Application Form:** Fill out the form for license conversion, available at your local driver's license office (Fahrerlaubnisbehörde).

### Book an Appointment

- **Visit the Fahrerlaubnisbehörde:** Schedule an appointment to submit your documents and complete any necessary tests.

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4.

# Integrate in Germany

## 4.1 Find Talent Communities 🤝

Connecting with professional and talent communities can significantly enhance your integration process. These communities offer networking opportunities, support, and resources that can help you settle in and advance your career.

### How to Find Talent Communities



eventbrite

facebook



#### Meetup:

- **Professional Networking Events:** Search for events related to your industry or interests.
- **Social Groups:** Look for social meetups for expats in your area.

#### Eventbrite:

- **Local Events:** Find a variety of events, from professional workshops to social gatherings.
- **Expat Meetups:** Look for events specifically aimed at expats.

#### Facebook Groups:

- **City-Specific Expat Groups:** Search for expat groups in your city (e.g., “Expats in Berlin”, “Latinos en Alemania”)
- **Interest-Based Groups:** Find groups related to your hobbies or professional interests.

#### WhatsApp Groups:

- **Local Expat Chats:** Many expat communities create WhatsApp groups to stay connected. You can often find links to these groups in Facebook or Meetup pages.

# Are You Ready for Your Relocation to Germany? 🇩🇪

**Team Globemee is thrilled to welcome a new international talent to Germany and wishes you a fantastic start!**

Please check also out our  
Globemee Talent Blog:

<https://globemee.com/en/category/talent-en/>

