



Job search opportunity card

Last update: September 2024

The opportunity card (Section 20a of the Residence Act [AufenthG]) improves your chances of making contact with German employers and finding qualified employment in Germany. Further information are available at [Make it in Germany.com](https://www.make-it-in-germany.com).

Self-check opportunity card [here](#)

Conditions:

1. Qualification obtained in Germany or full equivalence of qualification obtained abroad, or
2. State-recognized higher education or vocational qualification abroad (for vocational qualifications: at least two years training period): Apply for information from the Central Office for Foreign Education ([ZAB](#)), or
3. Professional qualification positively recognized by the [BIBB](#) from a German Chamber of Commerce Abroad (AHK) of category A: ask the AHK about the requirements.

For cases 2 and 3 additionally:

- ▪ A score of at least six points in the points system.
- ▪ Proof of language skills: German at a min. level of A1 or English at a min. level of B2

Application for the opportunity card

The application for the opportunity card is only possible online through the Consular Services Portal. After filling out a questionnaire, it will be checked whether you qualify for the opportunity card. If this check is successful, you can upload your documents. Your application will then be checked for completeness. Communication regarding any additional information needed will be done directly through the Consular Services Portal. An appointment can only be booked afterwards.

Apply now online [here](#) and upload the following documents:

- Personally signed **passport** (original with one copy of the passport data page), with at least two completely empty pages and sufficient validity
- Valid **Swiss residence** permit with one copy
- **Application form** fully completed and signed including declaration to section 54 residence Act: [application form](#) with one copy
- One passport sized **photo** – no older than three months, according to biometric standards
- Proof of **recognition of foreign qualification** in original with one copy
- Proof of qualification: **original diploma** and if requested equivalency of the foreign qualification from [ZAB](#) or [BIBB](#) with one copy
- Proof of **language skills** for Option 2: German level A1 or English Level B2 ([GER](#))
- Proof of **financial means**:
Own funds on bank account: own bank statements of the last 3 months (containing a minimum of €1,027 net per month, for twelve month) or
Secondary employment: If you already have a specific part-time job in Germany in prospect, you can provide evidence of this in the form of an employment contract or a binding job offer stating the weekly working hours and monthly earnings or
[Blocked account](#) confirmation (containing a minimum of €1,027 net per month, for twelve month) or a [declaration of commitment](#).



Botschaft
der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
Bern

- **Health insurance** in line with EU standards (covering the entire Schengen area, min. coverage of 30,000 €, valid from the day of entry for twelve months)
- Proof of Work Experience in German or English language
- Postage expenses of 7 Swiss Francs
- Visa **fee** of 75 Euro payable by cash in Swiss Francs, by Visa or MasterCard (information [here](#))

The German Embassy Bern reserve the right to ask for additional documents at any time during the processing of your application.

Appointment scheduling for the opportunity card is possible after your documents have been reviewed.

At your appointment, please present all original documents and your [biometric photos](#).

To submit your application, please appear in person at the visa section of the embassy (Willadingweg 78, 3006 Bern) at your pre-booked appointment. The visa office will accept your complete application documents and the fee and take your biometric data. It is not possible to submit an application without an appointment.

In this visa category, most applications are typically processed within 2-3 weeks. Please do not contact the mission abroad to check the status of your application during the normal processing period. Such inquiries are extremely time-consuming for the visa department and cannot be answered. We will contact you by email as soon as the decision has been made.

Opportunity cards are issued initially as job search opportunity cards for a maximum of one year. The card allows you to look for gainful employment in Germany, i.e. you can seek employment or become self-employed. While you are looking for gainful employment, you are allowed to have one or more part-time jobs (secondary employment) totaling 20 hours a week. You can also do job trials for a maximum of two weeks per employer as part of your job search. The aim of the job trial must be either to obtain qualified employment, an apprenticeship or a qualification program.

Please note: Although the information in this information sheet has been prepared with utmost care, we cannot accept any responsibility for inaccuracies contained herein.