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Aufenthalts- und Sozialrecht für internationale Studierende
Residency and Social Security Law for International Students

Glossar Glossary

A-Z



1921-2021

100 YEARS
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Einführung

Dieses Glossar erscheint begleitend zu unserer im Herbst 2020 bzw. im Februar 2021 veröffentlichten Handreichung Aufenthalts- und Sozialrecht für internationale Studierende in Deutsch und Englisch. Die Handreichung für Beratende in Studenten-/Studierendenwerken und Hochschulen vermittelt systematische Grundlagenkenntnisse und aktuelle Vertiefungen zu den bestehenden aufenthalts- und sozialrechtlichen Regelungen für internationale Studierende.

In dem hier vorliegenden Glossar werden zentrale Fachbegriffe aus der Handreichung bzw. aus dem Aufenthalts- und Sozialrecht ins Englische übersetzt und erläutert.

Da juristisches Fachvokabular zum Aufenthaltsrecht in einer zweisprachigen Beratungssituation fordernd sein kann, möchten wir mit diesem Glossar ein weiteres Werkzeug für die gelingende Beratung von internationalen Studierenden zur Verfügung stellen.

Entwickelt wurde das Glossar von der Autorin der Handreichung, Prof. Dr. jur. Dorothee Frings, in Zusammenarbeit mit David Allison, LL.M., der bereits die englische Übersetzung der Handreichung realisiert hatte. Beiden danken wir sehr herzlich für die gute Zusammenarbeit.

Wir hoffen, dass wir Sie mit dieser Publikation bei der Beratung von internationalen Studierenden unterstützen können und wünschen Ihnen weiterhin viel Freude und Energie für Ihre Arbeit.

Ihre Servicestelle Interkulturelle Kompetenz

Berlin, Juli 2021

Introduction

This glossary has been written to accompany the guidance on Residency and Social Security Law for International Students, which we published in German in autumn 2020 and in English in February 2021. The guidance for advisers working in student service organisations and higher education institutions provides a systematic introduction to residency and social security law with detailed treatment of selected current issues in these fields.

This glossary contains English translations and explanations of the key technical terms used in the guidance and in the relevant residency and social security law.

Working with specialist legal vocabulary whilst advising people in another language is a very challenging undertaking. We hope that this glossary will provide another useful tool for advising international students successfully.

This glossary is the work of Prof. Dr. jur. Dorothee Frings, who wrote the guidance for advisers, in collaboration with David Allison, LL.M., who translated the guidance into English. Many thanks to both of them for their work. It was a pleasure working with them on this project.

We hope that you will find this publication useful, easy to use and motivating in your work advising international students.

Your Servicepoint for Intercultural Competence

Berlin, July 2021

Glossar Glossary

A

Abkommensstaat

Treaty state

Germany has entered bilateral social insurance agreements (see also **Sozialversicherungsabkommen**) with a number of countries. These are referred to as treaty states.

Abschiebehindernis

Obstacle to deportation

Deportation may be impossible for de facto reasons (e.g. if there are no flight connections) or legal reasons (e.g. if deportation would violate a person's human rights).

Abschiebungsandrohung

Deportation warning

Official notices of the termination of a legal right to reside usually include a warning that the recipient will be deported if the period allowed for departure is exceeded.

ALG I/Arbeitslosengeld I

Unemployment benefit I

Unemployment benefit I is an insurance benefit. Entitlement is derived from the payment of employment insurance contributions levied on wages and salaries.

Students are not usually insured and cannot claim unemployment benefit I on the basis of previous periods of gainful employment.

ALG II/Arbeitslosengeld II (Hartz IV)

Unemployment benefit II (Hartz IV)

Unemployment benefit II can be claimed by people who are not entitled to insurance-based benefits or whose entitlements are so low that they are unable to support themselves.

Students are not usually entitled to unemployment benefit II.

Allgemeines Gleichbehandlungsgesetz (AGG)

General Equal Treatment Act

The General Equal Treatment Act provides protection against discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnic origin, gender, disability, religion, belief or philosophy of life, age, or sexual orientation. The law applies to employment and to certain areas of civil law, but not to social or administrative law.

Altersversorgung

Provision for old age

Provision for old age is the money which a person saves throughout their working life as a source of income after retirement. Provision for old age may take the form of a combination of savings, investment income, a statutory pension, a company pension, private life insurance or owner-occupied property.

Antidiskriminierungsstelle des Bundes (ADS)

Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency

The Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency provides counselling and information relating to discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnic origin, gender, disability, religion, belief or philosophy of life, age, or sexual orientation (see also [Allgemeines Gleichbehandlungsgesetz](#)).

Apostille

Apostille

An apostille certifies the validity of a document. Apostilles are accepted in 118 (mostly European) signatory countries to the Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents.

Arbeitsagentur/Bundesagentur für Arbeit

Federal Employment Agency

The Federal Employment Agency helps people find jobs and training. It advises people on topics related to their profession and pays welfare benefits, such as unemployment benefit I (ALG I) and child benefit. In contrast, ALG II is paid by Jobcenters (see also [Jobcenter](#)).

Arbeitsrecht

Employment and labour law

Laws regulating working conditions and labour relations.

Arbeitsschutzgesetz (ArbSchG)

Act on the Implementation of Measures of Occupational Safety and Health to Encourage Improvements in the Safety and Health Protection of Workers at Work

Employers are required by law to protect their employees against health and safety risks at work. This includes preventing accidents, taking action against work-related health risks and designing workplaces in a healthy (ergonomic) way.

Arbeitsverbot

Ban on working

Asylum seekers are prohibited from engaging in gainful employment during the first nine months of their residence.

Foreign nationals with toleration status are not permitted to take up gainful employment if, for example, they are from a “safe country of origin” (Balkan states, Ghana, Senegal) or have not cooperated in obtaining passport documentation (Secs. 60a (6) and 60b AufenthG).

Arbeitszeitgesetz (ArbZG)

Hours of Employment Act

Law regulating working times and hours.

AStA/ASten

General Student Committee

The General Student Committee at a higher education institution is elected, organised and managed by students themselves. The General Student Committee represents the “constituted” student body that consists of all the students at a higher education institution.

Asylantrag

Application for asylum

Asylum seekers must apply to the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (see also **Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge**) for asylum. The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees provides interpreters to help applicants understand their rights and duties within the asylum procedure. Applicants receive all important information in writing in their first language.

Asylbescheid

Positive/Negative official notice of decision on an application for asylum

The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (see also **Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge**) examines all applications made for asylum. The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees then sends asylum seekers either a positive official notice (in which refugee or asylum status is recognised, subsidiary protection granted or a person’s deportation barred) or, if they are not entitled to protection, a negative official notice.

Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz (AsylbLG)

Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act

The Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act stipulates the financial assistance (for food, accommodation, heating, clothing, personal hygiene) and medical services available to asylum seekers, people required to leave the country and people with toleration status.

Asylum seekers are entitled to standard social benefits and full healthcare after an 18-month waiting period. They cannot, however, choose where they live and are often accommodated in refugee shelters.

Asylgesetz (AsylG)

Asylum Act

The law which regulates the asylum procedure carried out by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, accommodation, the right of asylum seekers to engage in gainful employment and restrictions on their movement for the duration of their asylum procedure.

Asylverfahren

Asylum procedure

All applications for asylum are assessed by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees. It assesses whether applicants are at risk of persecution or their life or liberty is in jeopardy in their country of origin. The decision reached by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees is primarily determined by the outcome of a personal interview.

Aufenthaltserlaubnis

Residence permit

Foreign nationals from outside the EU who wish to remain in Germany for longer than three months must obtain a residence permit. Residence permits are issued for limited periods of time for the purposes stipulated in the Residence Act (see also [Aufenthaltsgesetz](#)): for study and training purposes, for employment purposes, on humanitarian or political grounds or for family reasons.

Aufenthaltserlaubnis zum Zweck der Beschäftigung

Residence permit for employment purposes (Secs. 18 – 19d AufenthG)

Aufenthaltserlaubnis zum Zweck des Studiums

Residence permit for study purposes (Secs. 16, 16b, 17 AufenthG)

Aufenthaltserlaubnis zur Absolvierung eines Praktikums

Residence permit for the purpose of doing an internship (Secs. 16b (1) and (5) No. 3, 16e AufenthG)

Aufenthaltserlaubnis zur Arbeitsuche

Residence permit for the purpose of seeking work (Sec. 20 AufenthG)

Aufenthaltsgenehmigung

Permission to reside

Generic term for all forms of permitted residence (not a legal term).

Aufenthaltsgesetz (AufenthG)

Residence Act (Act on the Residence, Economic Activity and Integration of Foreigners in the Federal Territory)

This law is the most important piece of legislation affecting international students in Germany. Its purpose is to manage and limit the number of people entering Germany, to promote the integration of people who have immigrated to the country and to fulfil Germany's humanitarian obligations. This means that the law regulates the entry, residence, employment and termination of residence of foreign nationals. The Residence Act does not apply to EU citizens.

https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_aufenthg/englisch_aufenthg.html

Aufenthaltsgestattung/Gestattung

Temporary permission to remain (pending an asylum decision)

This document states that a foreign national is allowed to reside in the country for the duration of their asylum procedure (Sec. 55 AsylG).

Temporary permission to remain expires at the end of the asylum procedure.

Aufenthaltstitel

Residence title

Except in certain exceptional cases, lawful entry to and residence in Germany is only possible if the person entering and staying in the country holds a residence title.

Auffangversicherung

Compulsory enrolment in the statutory health insurance scheme

Compulsory insurance in cases in which the insured person has no alternative insurance cover (Sec. 5 (1) No. 13 SGB V).

Compulsory insurance in the statutory health insurance scheme is automatic and retrospective! If someone who is subject to compulsory insurance does not immediately obtain cover from a health insurance company of their choice, they will accumulate premium debts, even if they were not aware of the legal requirement to obtain such insurance cover.

Aufnahmeverfahren

Reception of applicants for international protection

Reception of applicants for international protection within the meaning of EU law on the determination of responsibility for the reception of refugees (Dublin III).

The Reception Directive 2013/33/EU lays down the fundamental rules on freedom of movement, social rights, health care and the special reception needs of vulnerable persons.

Aufschiebende Wirkung

Suspensive effect

Suspensive effect of a challenge to or court action against an administrative act (Sec. 84 AufenthG).

Ausbildungsduldung

Temporary suspension of deportation for the purpose of training (Sec. 60c AufenthG)

Obtaining temporary suspension of deportation for training (not for studies at a higher education institution) is one way in which a foreign national whose application for asylum has been turned down can prolong their residence in Germany.

Ausländerrecht

Laws and ordinances on entry and residence

German laws on entry, residence and employment, such as:

- AufenthG (Residence Act)
- AsylG (Asylum Act)
- FreizügG/EU (Act on the General Freedom of Movement for EU Citizens)
- AufenthV (Ordinance Governing Residence)
- BeschV (Regulation on the Employment of Foreign Nationals)
- IntV (Ordinance on Integration Courses)
- AsylbLG (Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act)

Auswärtiges Amt (AA)

Federal Foreign Office

The Federal Foreign Office is Germany's foreign ministry. It is responsible for Germany's relationships with other countries and with the European Union.

B

Bankbürgschaft

Bank guarantee

A bank guarantee can be used to demonstrate that a person can meet their financial obligations under a contract. A bank guarantee means that, if all else fails, the bank will settle a particular debt for which its customer is otherwise liable. The bank charges a fee for this service.

Befreiungsantrag (für Rundfunkgebühren)

Application for exemption from television and radio fees

An application for exemption from television and radio licence fees can be made if a person's income is no higher than the ALG II (Hartz IV) requirement level.

Beitragsbemessungsgrenze der Krankenversicherung

Earnings ceiling for statutory health insurance contributions

The monthly earnings limit on contributions to health and long-term care insurance in 2021 is €4,837.50. This is the maximum amount on which contributions must be paid.

Beitragsbemessungsgrenze der Rentenversicherung

Earnings ceiling of the general pension scheme

The earnings ceiling for pension contributions is the maximum income on which contributions must be paid towards the statutory pension scheme.

The earnings ceiling in 2021 is €7,100 (Western Germany) and €6,700 (Eastern Germany). This means that pension contributions are not payable on earned income above these ceilings.

Beratungsstelle Studium und Behinderung (IBS)

Studying with Disabilities – Information and Advice Centre

The Studying with Disabilities Information and Advice Centre provides comprehensive information about studying in Germany as a disabled student.

<https://www.studentenwerke.de/en/content/studying-disabilities-%E2%80%93-information-and>

Berufsausbildung

Vocational training

Under Section 1 of the Vocational Training Act (BBlG) the term *Berufsausbildung* covers preparation for vocational training, initial vocational training, continuing professional development and vocational retraining. Initial vocational training is provided by a training employer in cooperation

with post-secondary vocational schools as part of Germany's dual training system. Trainees in vocational training acquire work-related theoretical and practical knowledge.

The Vocational Training Act stipulates that initial vocational training must impart the occupational skills, knowledge and abilities and work experience required to perform a qualified occupational activity in a changing world of work.

As a rule, initial vocational training takes between 2 and 3.5 years to complete. Most trainees in initial vocational training receive a salary during their training. This "training allowance" is agreed in a contract between the trainee and the employer. In most cases, the training allowance is based on rates stipulated in collective agreements.

Berufsausbildungsbeihilfe

Vocational training grant (Secs. 56 et seq. SGB III)

Vocational training grants are offered by the Federal Employment Agency to cover the living expenses of trainees in vocational training or pre-vocational training programmes (Secs. 51 et seq. SGB III).

Entitlement is means-tested, including on the basis of the income of trainees' parents.

Beschäftigungsduldung

Temporary suspension of deportation for the purpose of employment (Sec. 60d AufenthG)

An option for extending the period of toleration for refugees who entered Germany prior to August 1, 2018 and who are in long-term employment.

Beschäftigungsverbot

Prohibition of employment

The Maternity Protection Act covers all expectant and nursing mothers who are in employment. The Act prohibits pregnant women being assigned certain kinds of employment, in particular work which would endanger the life or health of the expectant mother or her baby. Pregnant women who are in paid employment must also be released from work six weeks prior to delivery and eight weeks (as a rule) after the birth of the child. Pregnant women in paid employment are entitled to maternity benefits and top-up payments from their employers.

Betriebszugehörigkeit

Length of service

Length of time an employee has been working for the same establishment.

Beurteilungsspielraum

Margin of assessment

In certain cases, involving for example predictions, motivations or the evaluation of examinations, administrative authorities have a margin of legal assessment that they can apply in their decisions. The margin of assessment is not the same as the powers of discretion which may be granted to administrative authorities by law.

Blaue Karte EU

EU Blue Card

An EU Blue Card gives highly-qualified workers from outside the EU the right to live and work in an EU Member State if they have the right professional qualifications (such as a higher education institution degree), an employment contract or a binding job offer with a high salary.

Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF)

Federal Office for Migration and Refugees

The BAMF is a federal authority which reports to the Federal Ministry of the Interior. The BAMF holds exclusive responsibility for handling all applications for asylum and also performs other federal tasks in the field of migration, integration, voluntary departure, research and statistics.

Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz (BfV)

Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution

The Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution is Germany's domestic intelligence service. It collects and evaluates information on unconstitutional activities in order to protect the free democratic basic order. It is also responsible for counter-intelligence, counter-sabotage and personnel/physical security.

Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz (BAföG)

Federal Training Assistance Act

The Federal Training Assistance Act regulates the federal financial aid scheme for students. It is a means-tested combined grant and loan scheme to cover the living expenses of students whose parents cannot afford to provide support. International students are rarely eligible for BAföG.

Bundeskriminalamt (BKA)

Federal Criminal Police Office

The Federal Criminal Police Office is responsible for national and international cooperation, investigating international and serious crime, research and development, administration and close protection duties.

(Bundes-)Land

Federal state

Germany is a federal republic. It consists of sixteen federal states (collectively referred to as *Länder*). Article 30 of the German Constitution (Basic Law) states that, except in those cases specified in the Constitution, state powers and functions are primarily held by the *Länder*. Although, in reality, most legislative powers lie with the federal government, the federal states are responsible for important areas of policy such as education, training and culture as well as certain aspects of migration and integration law.

Bundesministerium des Innern (BMI)

Federal Ministry of the Interior

The Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (*Bundesministerium des Innern, für Bau und Heimat*) is responsible for matters such as civil protection, migration, integration, sport funding and internal security.

Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND)

Federal Foreign Intelligence Service

The Federal Foreign Intelligence Service is Germany's foreign intelligence agency.

Bundespolizei

Federal Police

The Federal Police is primarily responsible for border protection, security of airports and train stations, protection of federal agencies and embassies, and supports the *Länder* police forces.

Bundessozialgericht (BSG)

Federal Social Court

The Federal Social Court is the supreme court for social legislation in Germany.

Bundesurlaubsgesetz (BurlG)

Federal Vacation Act

The Federal Vacation Act gives employees the right to paid holidays. It stipulates the minimum number of days employees must be given annual leave and prohibits employees working for another employer while on paid holiday.

Bundesverfassungsgericht (BVerfG)

Federal Constitutional Court

The Federal Constitutional Court is the supreme constitutional court in Germany. It is responsible for judicial review and may declare legislation unconstitutional.

Bundesverwaltungsamt (BVA)

Federal Office of Administration

The Federal Office of Administration is the German government's central service provider. The BVA is assigned to the Federal Ministry of the Interior. It carries out more than 150 tasks, including the central organisation of security screening for the issuance of visas and other residence permits.

Bundesverwaltungsgericht (BVerwG)

Federal Administrative Court

The Federal Administrative Court is the supreme administrative court in Germany. In most cases the Federal Administrative Court acts as a court of appeal on points of law in the area of administrative law.

Other courts of last resort are the Federal Court of Justice, the Federal Finance Court, the Federal Labour Court and the Federal Social Court. These courts all ensure that national law is applied uniformly by the lower courts.

D

Daueraufenthaltskarte

Permanent residence card for family members

Refer to the right of permanent residence for family members in Article 20 of the Directive 2004/38/EC on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the member states.

Daueraufenthaltsrecht

Right of permanent residence for Union citizens

Refer to the right of permanent residence for Union citizens in Article 16 of the Directive 2004/38/EC on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the member states.

Deutsche Verbindungsstelle Krankenversicherung – Ausland (DVKA)

Germany's statutory health insurance national liaison agency

This agency liaises on health care issues between EU Member States and other treaty states.

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD)

German Academic Exchange Service

The German Academic Exchange Service is Germany's national agency for the international exchange of students and researchers. The DAAD's most important responsibilities include granting scholarships, promoting the internationalisation activities of German universities and research organisations, strengthening German cultural and language studies abroad and helping developing countries to establish effective higher education institutions.

Deutsches Studentenwerk (DSW)

German National Association for Student Affairs

The DSW is the national association of the 57 local or regional public student service organisations in Germany.

Direktionsrecht

Right to issue instructions

Contracts of employment may give the employer the right to issue instructions to an employee concerning working times, the place of work and the work itself.

Doppelbesteuerungsabkommen

Double taxation agreement

Germany has concluded agreements on the taxation of income and capital with many countries. The purpose of these double taxation agreements is to avoid situations where tax is paid in two or more countries at the same time or where tax is not paid in any country at all. The aim is to ensure that everyone pays their fair share – and only their fair share – of tax.

Drittstaaten

Third countries

Countries, excluding Switzerland, that are not members of the European Union or the European Economic Area.

Drittstaatsangehörige

Third-country nationals

A third-country national is anyone who is not a citizen of a member state of the European Union, the European Economic Area or Switzerland.

Duales Studium

Dual studies

Dual studies enable students to acquire practical experience in their profession while they study. Dual studies combine in-company practical training with academic study at a higher education institution. During the in-company training part of their dual studies, students have the status of employees and are subject to compulsory social insurance.

Duldung

Toleration status (temporary suspension of deportation)

Toleration status is acquired if deportation is temporarily suspended (Secs. 60a et seq. AufenthG) for de facto reasons (e.g. lack of travel or identity documents) or for legal reasons (e.g. family ties,

danger to life and limb). Toleration status may also be granted on humanitarian grounds. Toleration status is not a residence title and it expires as soon as the tolerated foreign national leaves the country.

Durchführungsverordnung 987/2009

Implementing Regulation (EC) No 987/2009

The implementing regulation to Regulation 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems in the EU.

E

Eilantrag

Urgent appeal

Application to a court (such as an administrative or social court) for a provisional order in urgent cases in which there is insufficient time to wait for a decision to be obtained through the normal procedure.

Eingliederungshilfe

Integration assistance

Integration assistance is provided to people with disabilities and is intended to help them lead a self-determined life and to participate fully and equally in society. International students are only entitled to these benefits in special circumstances according to the residence title they hold.

Einkommenssteuergesetz (EStG)

Income Tax Act

Secs. 62 et seq. of the Income Tax Act stipulate who is entitled to receive child benefit.

Einreise- und Aufenthaltsverbot

Ban on entry and residence

When a foreign national's residence comes to an end the immigration authorities can, in certain circumstances, ban their subsequent entry and residence in Germany for a defined period (Sec. 11 AufenthG).

Elektronische Steuererklärung (ELSTER)

ELSTER

ELSTER is the electronic portal of the federal and state tax authorities for filing tax returns.

Elterngeld

Parental allowance

Parental allowance provides financial support to families after the birth of a child. It replaces part of the earnings lost by a parent who stays at home after the birth to look after the child. The minimum parental allowance is €300; the maximum allowance is €1,800 per month. There are different variants of parental allowance and ways of splitting it between the parents (Sec. 4 Parental Allowance and Parental Leave Act, BEEG).

Elternzeit

Parental leave

Parental leave is time which parents take off from employment to look after and raise their children themselves. Employees can claim parental leave from their employer and take parental leave for up to three years from the birth of the child (Sec. 15 Parental Allowance and Parental Leave Act, BEEG). A parent on parental leave is not entitled to continued pay (see also [Elterngeld](#)).

Erlaubnis zum Daueraufenthalt-EU

EU long-term residence permit

Refer to Article 2 (b) of Directive 2003/109/EC concerning the status of third-country nationals who are long-term residents. Students from third countries can only apply for an EU long-term residence permit if they have worked in Germany after completing their studies.

Ermessen

Discretion

In some cases, administrative authorities have the power to act with discretion. Discretion is exercised if the law allows more than one single outcome. Discretion can result in fairer decisions being taken, but must never result in arbitrary action, must not violate fundamental rights and must be proportionate.

Europäische Krankenversicherungskarte

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

The European Health Insurance Card provides access, under the conditions stated in Regulation (EC) No. 883/2004, to medically necessary, state-provided healthcare in any of the 27 EU Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

Europäische Union (EU)

European Union

The European Union is a unique economic and political union between 27 European countries. It was originally an economic union but has evolved into an organisation which covers policy areas from climate, environment and health to external relations and security, justice and migration.

https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/eu-in-brief_en

Europäischer Gerichtshof (EuGH)

European Court of Justice (ECJ)

The European Court of Justice in Luxembourg interprets EU law to ensure it is applied in the same way in all EU countries.

Europäischer Wirtschaftsraum (EWR)

European Economic Area (EEA)

The European Economic Area is made up of the EU Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. All these countries form part of the EU's single market.

Existenzminimum

Minimum subsistence level

The Federal Constitutional Court defines the minimum subsistence level for a person as "The material conditions that are indispensable for his or her physical existence and for a minimum participation in social, cultural and political life" (BVerfG, February 9, 2010 – 1 BvL 1/09).

Exmatrikulation

Termination of enrolment at a higher education institution

Enrolment at a higher education institution can be ended by the student or (with or without the student's consent) by the institution itself.

F

Fachkräfteeinwanderungsgesetz

Skilled Immigration Act

The Skilled Immigration Act came into force on March 1, 2020 and makes it easier for qualified skilled workers to immigrate to Germany from third countries. Most of the changes introduced by

the law have been incorporated in the Residence Act (see also **Aufenthaltsgesetz**). The Skilled Immigration Act also makes it easier to switch from residence for study purposes to residence for other forms of vocational training.

Familienkasse (Kindergeldkasse)

Family benefits office

Family benefits offices are run by the Federal Employment Agency and are responsible for processing applications for child benefit and for calculating and making child allowance payments.

Forms and leaflets are available at:

<https://www.kindergeld.org/formulare/kindergeld-formulare-in-englischer-sprache.html>

Familiennachzug

Family reunification (subsequent immigration of dependants)

A residence permit for family reunification purposes may be obtained under Secs. 27 et seq. of the Residence Act.

Feststellungsprüfung

Qualification exam to study at a German higher education institution

Examination to assess the qualifications of international students applying for studies at universities in Germany. This exam must be taken by prospective students whose secondary level II examination results (obtained in their country of origin) are not high enough to begin a degree programme at a German higher education institution.

Fiktionsbescheinigung

Provisional residence document

A provisional residence document provides proof of the holder's legal right to reside in Germany. It is issued to foreign nationals who are waiting for their residence title to be issued or renewed.

Flüchtlingspass nach der Genfer Flüchtlingskonvention

Refugee passport (1951 Refugee Convention)

A travel document for refugees ("blue passport") is issued to recognised refugees or asylum seekers (but not to applicants who have been granted subsidiary protection or to those holding a residence permit based on a national ban on deportation). Under Article 28 of the 1951 Refugee Convention this travel document allows holders to travel outside Germany.

Freiwillige Krankenversicherung

Voluntary membership in the statutory health insurance (SHI) scheme

It is possible in certain cases to join the statutory health insurance scheme as a voluntary member (including immediately after termination of employment).

Freizügigkeit

Freedom of movement

All EU citizens have the right to move freely within the European Union and to enter and reside in any EU Member State, subject to the conditions and restrictions of EU law.

Freizügigkeitsgesetz EU (FreizügG/EU)

Act on the General Freedom of Movement for EU Citizens

The Act on the General Freedom of Movement for EU Citizens incorporates into German legislation the legal provisions on residence in Directive 2004/38/EC of April 29, 2004 on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the member states.

Fürsorgepflicht

Duty of care

The duty of care is a voluntarily assumed or legal obligation, particularly in the field of employment law, which requires a person to act to a standard of reasonable care.

G

Geldleistung

Monetary benefits

Cash benefits are paid directly to the beneficiary. In contrast, the cost of in-kind benefits are paid to a service provider (usually a health service provider).

Gesetz zur Regelung der Arbeitnehmerüberlassung (AÜG)

Temporary Agency Work Act

Temporary agency workers have an employment contract with one company (the temporary work agency) but actually work in another (the client company). Temporary agency workers are integrated into the client company's organisational structure and must follow instructions given by the client company. The assignment of employees and their labour rights are stipulated in the Temporary Agency Work Act.

Gesetzliche Krankenversicherung (GKV)

Statutory health insurance (SHI)

Employees, farmers, artists, members of the publishing profession and other groups are required by German law to obtain health insurance with the statutory health insurance scheme. Civil servants, the self-employed and high-earning individuals are exempt from compulsory statutory health insurance.

Gesundheitskarte

Health insurance card

All members of the statutory health insurance scheme have a health insurance card from their health insurance company. This card must be produced every time health services are used so that the doctor or health care provider can bill the patient's health insurance company for treatment provided.

Gesundheitsprüfung

Health check

Private insurance companies often ask prospective clients to have a health check before they agree to insure them. Any pre-existing conditions a person might have may be relevant in this respect.

H

Härtefall

Case of hardship

A number of legislative provisions, including in the Residence Act, deal with cases of hardship which may merit special treatment in very exceptional circumstances.

Haushaltsgemeinschaft

Household

A household consists of relatives or other persons who live together and share their resources. In certain circumstances, relatives or in-laws living in a household will be assumed to be supporting each other.

Hochschulzugang(-sberechtigung)

Entrance qualification for study at a German higher education institution

As a rule, a secondary level II examination qualifies students to take up a place at a higher education institution. However, there are also many other ways of qualifying for entrance to a higher education institution. The relevant qualification exam (see also **Feststellungsprüfung**) is particularly important for international students.

I

Immatrikulation

Enrolment

Admission to a degree programme at a higher education institution. Students wishing to enrol on a course to which admissions are restricted require an admission notice as well as documentary evidence of health insurance cover and payment of the semester contribution.

Inländergleichbehandlung

Principle of equal treatment with nationals

Third-country nationals who have the right to reside in Germany as refugees under the 1951 Refugee Convention or as nationals of a signatory state to the European Convention on Social and Medical Assistance (ECSMA), which includes Turkey, enjoy the same rights under these conventions as German nationals.

J

Jobcenter (JC)

Jobcenter (local employment agency)

Jobcenters are operated jointly by the Federal Employment Agency and local government. Jobcenters are responsible for providing basic income support (ALG II, known colloquially as Hartz IV) to jobseekers under Book II of the Social Code (SGB II).

People who do not have the right to reside in Germany are only entitled to emergency assistance from the social welfare office – not the Jobcenters.

Jugendamt (JA)

Youth welfare office

All cities and districts have a youth welfare office, which can be contacted for advice on family problems that cannot be solved without help from outside. Youth welfare offices may also find and pay for kindergarten places for some children.

The youth welfare office is responsible for all families residing in Germany, regardless of their nationality or residence status.

Jugendhilfe

Youth welfare services

Youth welfare services provide social support to children, adolescents, young adults and parents (Book VIII of the Social Code, SGB VIII). Many services provided by the voluntary sector are also paid for by local authority youth welfare offices.

K

Kindergeld

Child benefit

Parents in Germany are entitled to a monthly child benefit regardless of their income. Entitlement to child benefit depends on the claimant's residence title and employment status. Applications for child benefit must be made to the family benefits office (see also [Familienkasse](#)).

Kinderkrankengeld

Childcare sick pay

Childcare sick pay is paid out by the statutory health insurance scheme if one parent is unable to go to work because he or she needs to care for a sick child (Sec. 45 SGB V). It is usually limited to a certain number of days per year.

Kinderzuschlag

Supplementary child allowance

Supplementary child allowance can be claimed by families on low incomes to top up their child benefit. Eligibility is contingent on entitlement to child benefit.

Entitlement to supplementary child allowance is contingent on a person's ability to support themselves without resorting to SGB II benefits. This means that claimants receiving unemployment benefit II (ALG II) are not entitled to supplementary child allowance.

Klagefrist

Deadline period for filing an action

Deadline by which a court action (objection or complaint) must be filed.

Krankengeld

Sickness benefit

Employers normally continue to pay employees who are unable to work for up to six weeks (see also **Lohnfortzahlung**). After that the employee's statutory health insurance scheme pays 70 percent of their regular gross salary, but no more than 90 percent of their previous net salary. Sickness benefit can be claimed for a maximum of 78 weeks in any three-year period. Whether or not private health insurance companies pay sickness benefits is stipulated in the relevant insurance policy.

Krankenhilfe

Sickness allowance

Sickness allowance is paid out by the social welfare office (Secs. 47 et seq. SGB XII) if no other health insurance cover is available.

Krankenkasse

Health insurance company

The statutory health insurance scheme is implemented in Germany by over 100 different health insurance companies. All those who are covered by statutory health insurance can choose which one of these health insurance companies they wish to join. Almost all health insurance benefits are stipulated in Book V of the Social Code (SGB V). In addition, some additional benefits are provided voluntarily by health insurance companies.

Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW)/KfW-Studienkredit

KfW/KfW student loan

The KfW is a state-owned development bank. It was formed in 1948 after World War II as part of the Marshall Plan for the reconstruction of post-war Europe. The bank is committed to improving economic, social and environmental living conditions across the globe on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Kultusministerkonferenz (KMK)

The Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the *Länder* in the Federal Republic of Germany

The Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs is a consortium of ministers responsible for education and schooling, higher education institutions and research and cultural affairs. It formulates the joint interests and objectives of all 16 federal states and addresses educational, higher education, research and cultural policy issues of supra-regional significance.

The Standing Conference runs the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB), the central authority for the evaluation of foreign qualifications in Germany as well as the Anabin information system for the recognition of foreign educational credentials.

<https://anabin.kmk.org/anabin.html>

Künstlersozialversicherung (KSV)

Artists' Social Insurance Scheme

The Artists' Social Insurance Scheme is part of the statutory social security system in Germany and provides compulsory insurance cover for self-employed artists and members of the publishing profession. In contrast to self-employed persons who are insured voluntarily, artists/writers only pay half the contributions to their social insurance scheme themselves (the employee's share).

L

Landesamt für Verfassungsschutz

Land Office for the Protection of the Constitution

The *Land* Office for the Protection of the Constitution is a domestic intelligence service which reports to the ministries of the interior in one of the federal states. These authorities collect and evaluate information on unconstitutional activities in order to protect the free democratic basic order.

Landesaufnahmeeinrichtung

Reception centre

Asylum seekers arriving in Germany are first sent to a reception centre run by one of the federal states (*Länder*). Asylum seekers must reside in reception centres for up to 18 months (six months in the case of families), or until their asylum procedure is completed, and are not permitted to leave the town or district to which they have been allocated. There are a variety of names for these reception centres, such as *Ankerzentrum* (AnKER centre), *Ankunftszentrum* (arrival centre), or *Erstaufnahmeeinrichtung* (initial reception centre).

Landesaufnahmeregulung

Admission under federal state regulations

The federal states, with the approval of the federal government, adopt procedures for the admission of certain groups of vulnerable persons from abroad.

In many cases, relatives already living in Germany are required to pay the living expenses of admissions under these federal state regulations (Sec. 23 (1) AufenthG).

Landeskriminalamt

Land criminal investigation department

Land criminal investigation departments investigate crimes in the areas of sexual offences, organised crime, narcotics and counterfeit money, in particular, on behalf of local police authorities of the 16 Länder.

Lebensunterhaltssicherung/Unterhaltssicherung

Self-sufficiency/Ability to support oneself financially

Self-sufficiency means a person's ability to pay for their and their family's living expenses without recourse to public funds (such as supplementary social assistance).

As a rule, a residence title is issued subject to the condition that the foreign national is able to pay for their own living expenses (Sec. 5 (1) No. 1 AufenthG).

This also applies to the issue of residence permits for the purpose of studying or preparing for study.

Leiharbeit

Temporary agency work/Personnel leasing

Temporary agency work is regulated by the Temporary Agency Work Act (see also [Gesetz zur Regelung der Arbeitnehmerüberlassung](#)).

Temporary agency work is a form of employment with a private employment agency. The agency sends its employees on a temporary basis to help other employers cover peak periods of work and temporary staff fluctuations.

Lohnfortzahlung

Continued payment of salary or wages during sickness and public holidays

Employees who fall sick are entitled to continued pay from their employer for up to six weeks.

Employees are also entitled to continued payment of salary or wages if they are unable to work due to a public holiday, because a facility is closed or because an event has been cancelled (Continuation of Remuneration Act, EntFG).

M

Mehrbedarfszuschlag

Additional needs allowance

Claimants receiving supplementary social assistance or ALG II (Hartz IV) may, under certain conditions, receive financial support on top of the standard rate to meet additional requirements.

Someone may have additional needs if they are, for example, pregnant, a single parent or disabled (Sec. 21 SGB II).

Meldebehörde/Einwohnermeldeamt

Registration office

The registration office is usually in the local town hall (see also **Meldepflicht**).

Meldepflicht

Reporting obligations

Everyone who is permanently resident in Germany is required to report the address at which they are currently living to the local authority registration office.

Mindestlohngesetz (MiLoG)

Minimum Wage Act

“Each worker is entitled to payment by their employer of remuneration of no less than the amount of the minimum wage” (Sec. 1 (1) MiLoG).

The gross hourly rate for the minimum wage from January 1, 2021 is €9.50 rising to €9.60 on July 1, 2021, €9.82 on January 1, 2022 and €10.45 from July 1, 2022.

Exceptions apply to trainees, apprentices and unqualified workers under the age of 18. Employers are permitted to pay less than the minimum wage to workers who have been unemployed for a long period of time during the first six months of their employment (Sec. 22 MiLoG).

Minijob

Mini-job

Workers who are in legally regulated marginal employment are often referred to as being in a “mini-job”. Employees in mini-jobs are not subject to compulsory health or unemployment insurance. There are two different kinds of mini-jobs. The first is a standard €450 job, in which employees can earn up to €5,400 a year. The second is a “short-term job” that is worked in addition to a person’s normal profession or by students or homemakers for less than three months (for a five-hour week) or 70 working days. Employees in mini-jobs can earn any amount of money during this time, but only for the maximum period.

Mittelmeerabkommen

Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements

Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements exist between the EU and Mediterranean countries, such as Morocco, Israel, Egypt, Algeria and Tunisia. The purpose of these agreements is to promote regular political and security dialogue to foster mutual understanding, cooperation and common initiatives; economic, trade and financial cooperation; as well as social, cultural and educational cooperation.

Mutterschaftsgeld

Maternity benefit

Women who are insured in the statutory health insurance scheme receive maternity benefit during the protection periods before and after childbirth.

Women who have private health insurance or who are insured abroad receive a one-time statutory payment of up to €210 (Sec. 19 Maternity Protection Act, MuSchG).

Employers must top up maternity benefit. However, only women with statutory health insurance cover receive the full benefit during their period of maternity protection.

Mutterschutz

Maternity protection

Expectant mothers are released on a maternity leave of six weeks before childbirth. Mothers are not permitted to work for eight weeks after childbirth.

The statutory period of maternity leave is extended for premature or multiple births or if a child is born with a disability (Sec. 3 Maternity Protection Act, MuSchG).

N

Nebenbeschäftigung/Nebenerwerbstätigkeit/Nebentätigkeit

Part-time job/employment/work

Nettoeinkommen

Net income

An employee's net income is that person's take home pay. This is their earnings less statutory deductions for social insurance contributions (health, long-term care, pension) and income tax.

Niederlassungserlaubnis

Permanent settlement permit

Holders of permanent settlement permits are entitled to live in Germany indefinitely.

As a rule, the conditions for the issue of a permanent settlement permit include at least five years' residence and gainful employment in Germany.

This period is reduced to two years' residence and employment in a studied profession (Sec. 18c (1) sentence 2 AufenthG) for certain groups, such as applicants who hold a degree awarded by a German higher education institution, and to three years for recognised refugees who are especially well integrated (Sec. 26 (3) sentence 3 AufenthG) and for the spouses and parents of German nationals (Sec. 28 (2) AufenthG).

O

Oberverwaltungsgericht (OVG)

Higher Administrative Court

In Germany, a Higher Administrative Court is the court to which appeals are brought from a lower administrative court before being taken to the highest court, the Federal Administrative Court (see also **Bundesverwaltungsgericht**). Administrative courts consider and rule on the decisions taken by public authorities (except in the case of social services and social security law, for which the social courts are responsible).

Ordnungsverfügung

Administrative order

An administrative order is issued by a public authority to protect public safety and order. Administrative orders require a person to do something, to allow something to be done or to stop doing something. Administrative orders may also be issued to refuse an application or to restrict or withdraw previously issued permits. Administrative orders issued by immigration authorities often concern the termination of residence and include a deportation warning (see also **Abschiebungsandrohung**).

Ordnungswidrigkeit

Administrative offence

An administrative offence is a violation of the law that is not considered to be a criminal offence. Administrative offences normally result in the imposition of a fine.

P

Passpflicht

Passport requirement

Third-country nationals entering or staying in Germany must hold a recognised and valid passport or passport substitute (Sec. 3 AufenthG).

Foreign nationals who do not possess a valid passport or passport substitute must make every possible and reasonable effort to obtain one (Sec. 48 (3) AufenthG). Only if all such efforts have proved fruitless is it possible to obtain a German travel document for foreigners from the immigration authority (Secs. 6 and 7 AufenthV).

Pfändungsgrenze

Attachment limit

The attachment limit (€1,180 for single people in 2021) is the portion of a person's monthly income that cannot be withheld or seized from their monthly earnings or social welfare benefits. Any income above this limit may be "attached", that is deducted from their earnings to pay off debts.

Anyone who has provided a declaration of commitment to pay for a foreigner's living expenses (see also **Verpflichtungserklärung**) must have an income which exceeds the attachment limit by the amount which is required to cover that foreigner's living expenses.

Pflegezeitgesetz (PflegeZG)

Caregiver Leave Act

The Caregiver Leave Act helps people to combine their family commitments with their working life. The law enables people to stay away from work for up to ten days in order to organise or ensure the acute care of a close relative. Care support may also be payable to compensate for lost earnings. Those caring for a close relative at home may also be eligible for up to six months' full or partial leave of absence from work.

Pflichtmitgliedschaft

Compulsory membership/Compulsory statutory health insurance

There are various forms of compulsory membership in the statutory health insurance scheme. Membership is compulsory for all employees earning between €451 and €5,362.50 a month, non-exempt students, apprentices, trainees, those doing voluntary work, independent artists on low incomes, pensioners and those who have no other insurance.

Prozesskostenhilfe

Legal aid/Procedural costs assistance

Litigants who cannot afford court or legal costs may be able to obtain legal aid. The purpose of legal aid is to ensure that all citizens have access to justice, regardless of how much money they have. A person may be eligible for legal aid if they cannot pay all the legal costs of a court case immediately, their case has a good chance of success and they would have gone to court anyway even if they had had to pay the costs themselves. However, legal aid does not cover all costs. In particular, if a person loses their case, they have to pay the opposing party's legal costs (except for cases brought before labour courts).

R

Rechtsmittel/Rechtsmittelbelehrung

Legal remedies/Appeals (information about a person's rights)

If a party to a court case is dissatisfied with the decision a court has reached, they can apply to a higher court for the review of the decision of any lower court. If an appeal is accepted (which may also depend on the value of the matter in dispute), the case will be reheard by an appeal court.

Regelanspruch

"As a rule" entitlement

This is a right which, if all the stated conditions are met, can only be refused in exceptional cases. For example, spouses and registered same-sex partners of German nationals have, under certain conditions, a right to early naturalisation. This right can only be refused in exceptional cases. Another example is when the right of care and custody for a child or children is shared with someone else, that child or those children can come to Germany if the other parent makes a declaration of consent. This may only be refused in exceptional circumstances.

Remonstrationsbescheid/Remonstrationsverfahren

Remonstrations notification/procedure

A remonstrations procedure is an objection to an official decision. Remonstrations play an important role in visa procedures as it is not possible to lodge a formal objection against a decision taken by German diplomatic missions. In a remonstrations procedure, an objection to a decision not to grant a visa is submitted directly to the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin for verification. If the decision reached by the Federal Foreign Office is negative, the decision can be appealed before the Administrative Court in Berlin.

S

Sachleistungsaushilfe

In-kind benefits

In-kind benefits are provided on the basis of intergovernmental agreements under which a person who is covered by statutory insurance in one member state is entitled to health care services in another member state.

The services are settled by the statutory insurance schemes or health funds in the participating member states.

The most important agreement is Regulation 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems in all EU Member States, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

Other agreements have been reached between Germany and Turkey.

Servicestelle Interkulturelle Kompetenz (SIK)

Servicepoint for Intercultural Competence

The SIK works to provide a welcoming culture for international students in Germany. It provides general information for international students and helps students to develop strong ties with the local (student) community. The SIK engages in political lobbying for the interests of international students, helps student service organisations and higher education institutions develop the services and advice they offer international students, and publishes a range of materials on international topics.

<https://www.studentenwerke.de/en/content/service-center-intercultural-competence>

SGB, Sozialgesetzbücher (SGB I – XII)

Social Code (Books I – XII)

The various books of Germany's Social Code deal with welfare legislation, including such areas as employment promotion, unemployment insurance, compulsory statutory health insurance, statutory retirement insurance, assistance of children, and social care assistance.

Sicherheitsüberprüfung

Security screening

The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, immigration authorities and diplomatic missions can carry out a security screening by passing on data to the Federal Office of Administration (see also [Bundesverwaltungsamt](#)) and to all the security services.

Sorgerecht

Child custody

Married parents usually have joint custody of their child or children. Non-married parents may also have joint custody if both parents agree to this arrangement or if joint custody is ordered by the court. Otherwise the mother has sole custody.

If a child's parents disagree about the care and custody of their child, they can apply to a family court for sole custody. However, the "best interests" of the child are always paramount.

Sozialamt

Social welfare office, local government

The social welfare office is the department in the local government administrative structure which provides social assistance to people who are unable to work and earn money – perhaps because of ill health or old age.

The social welfare office pays AsylbLG benefits to asylum seekers throughout their asylum procedure and continues to pay these benefits to foreign nationals with toleration status after their asylum procedure has ended.

Soziale Teilhabe/Teilhabe an Bildung

Social inclusion/Education and training for persons with disabilities

Persons with disabilities receive assistance and support from the state to obtain equal access to education and social inclusion (Secs. 75 et seq. Book IX of the Social Code, SGB IX). The actual agencies by which such support is provided differ from one federal state to the next.

Some benefits are means-tested and therefore depend on the income and assets of the person concerned or their parents.

Sozialhilfe

Social assistance

Social assistance benefits can be claimed by those who are unable to pay for their living expenses from their own resources and who do not have sufficient entitlement to contribution-based insurance and pension benefits.

As well as income support, social assistance can also take the form of sickness allowance, nursing care benefits and other assistance for people in social need.

Sozialleistungen

Social welfare benefits

Sozialrecht

Social law

Social law embraces numerous laws in the various areas listed in Secs. 18 – 29 Book I of the Social Code (SGB I).

Sozialversicherungsabkommen

Social insurance agreements

Germany has concluded social insurance agreements with around 20 non-EU/EEA countries.

Social insurance agreements benefit the nationals of the respective treaty states. Social insurance agreements can cover a number of different areas of social security systems.

Sozialversicherungspflicht

Compulsory insurance

Compulsory members of social insurance schemes must pay contributions towards statutory insurance schemes (for pensions, health and long-term care, and unemployment insurance).

These insurance schemes are financed by employers and employees, each paying half of a fixed

proportion of the employees' monthly earnings (up to the contribution assessment ceiling). Payment of these compulsory social insurance contributions confers a legal entitlement to the associated benefits.

Sozialwohnung

Social housing

Social housing is a form of public or subsidised housing for people on low to moderate incomes. Social housing should be more affordable than private renting and usually provides a more secure, long-term tenancy. A certificate of eligibility is required to qualify for social housing. The issue of this certificate depends on criteria such as the claimant's level of income.

Sperrkonto

Blocked bank account

A blocked bank account can be used to provide evidence that a person has enough money to pay their own living expenses. A blocked bank account must only allow the withdrawal of a certain amount of money per month (for students this is currently €861 per month).

Steueridentifikationsnummer

Tax identification number

Everyone who is registered as living in Germany is issued a tax identification number by the tax office.

A person applying for child benefit must enter their own tax identification number and that of the child in the application form. This enables the authorities to determine the countries (Germany and other EU Member States) in which child benefit payments are being claimed.

Studenten- und Studierendenwerk(e) (STW)

Student service organisation(s)

The 57 student service organisations in Germany provide services to all students in higher education. The STWs all over Germany are affiliated to the *Deutsches Studentenwerk*, the German National Association for Student Affairs. Student service organisations play a key role in ensuring equal opportunities. By co-operating with higher education institutions and university towns and cities, they help improve study conditions and make a substantial contribution to shaping the social dimension of higher education.

Studienabschluss

Degree, graduation, completion of/completed studies

In Germany the most common degrees awarded are

- Bachelor's degrees
- Master's degrees
- State examinations

Studienbewerber*in

Person applying for a place to study at a higher education institution

Studienkolleg

Preparatory college

A candidate for a place in a higher education institution whose qualifications are not sufficient enough for admission to a degree programme in Germany must take a higher education entrance examination. This usually entails attending a preparatory college at which prospective students prepare for a degree course in five different main subject areas within one year. The entrance examination only qualifies candidates for certain types of degrees! Preparatory college courses are not merely German language courses – German is the language of instruction, and students need level B1 German to be able to attend.

T

Tarifvertrag

Collective bargaining agreement

Collective bargaining agreements are made between employers' associations and trade unions. They typically regulate the rights and duties of employees and employers and cover areas such as working conditions (wages, salaries, working hours and vacation entitlement). Collective bargaining agreements may apply to a specific industrial sector (such as the public sector or the automotive industry), to the entire country, to a particular area or just to a single company (e.g. Volkswagen).

Teilzeitstudium

Part-time study

Some degree programmes can be studied on a part-time basis in Germany. However, foreign nationals have no entitlement to a residence permit for study purposes (Sec. 16b AufenthG) to engage in part-time study.

U

Überbrückungsstudium

Bridging course

uni-assist e.V.

uni-assist e.V.

uni-assist e.V. is the working service point for international student applications. The service is supported by approximately 170 German higher education institutions. Its core responsibility is to evaluate international school and higher education institution certificates and to determine their equivalence to German educational standards. Services also include processing the individual entry requirements of target universities.

Unionsbürger*in/Unionsbürgerschaft

EU citizen/EU citizenship

Anyone who holds the nationality of an EU Member State is automatically also an EU citizen. EU citizenship is additional to national citizenship and does not replace it. The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) details the rights of EU citizens. In particular, these include the right to non-discrimination on the basis of nationality and the right to move and work freely within the EU.

Unterhaltsvorschuss

Maintenance advance

Under the Maintenance Advance Act (UhVorschG), single parents are paid a minimum level of child maintenance from public funds if their children are not receiving regular maintenance from the other parent.

Students who hold a residence permit for study purposes (Secs. 16b, 20 (3) AufenthG) are eligible for this benefit if they are in gainful employment, are in receipt of ALG I or on parental leave (Sec. 15 Parental Allowance and Parental Leave Act (BEEG), Sec. 1 (2a) No. 2 b) Maintenance Advance Act (UhVorschG)).

V

Vaterschaftsanerkennung

Declaration of paternity

If a child's paternity has not already been established, the father who is not married to the mother at the time of the child's birth can formally declare his paternity and then be recognised as the father. Paternity may be declared prior to the birth of the child. However, a declaration of paternity is not effective if the mother was married to another man at the time the child is born. Mothers who are foreign nationals must therefore present evidence that they are not married in another country. If there is any suspicion that paternity is only being declared to assist one of the persons involved to secure a right to reside in Germany, the declaration of paternity must be set aside and presented to the immigration authority for inspection (Sec. 1597a German Civil Code (BGB)).

Verordnung über die Koordination der Systeme der sozialen Sicherheit VO 883/2004

Regulation (EC) 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems

The EU provides common rules to protect a person's social security rights when they move within the EU, the EEA and Switzerland. The rules on social security coordination do not replace national systems. Each country applies its own legislation. The social security institutions decide which country's legislation a person is covered by under EU rules. In most cases, the legislation of the country in which the worker (employee or self-employed person) actually works (not where they live or where the employer is based) applies.

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=849&langId=en>

Verpflichtungserklärung

Declaration of commitment

Anyone who has provided the immigration authority or a diplomatic mission in another country with a declaration of commitment to pay a foreigner's living expenses in Germany (Sec. 68 AufenthG) is required for a period of five years to reimburse any public funds expended to cover the foreigner's living expenses, including housing, medical and deportation costs. This does not apply to any benefits to which the foreigner is entitled on the basis of contributions paid to an insurance scheme (such as the statutory health insurance scheme) in Germany.

Versicherungsträger

Insurance institution

These are public institutions which provide employees' statutory health insurance, long-term care insurance, statutory accident insurance and statutory pension insurance. These institutions are self-governing public law corporations. In 2020, there were, for example, 105 statutory health insurance companies in Germany. They collect contributions from employers and employees.

Vertrag über die Arbeitsweise der Europäischen Union (AEUV)

Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)

The TFEU is the successor treaty to the Treaty of Rome, under which the European Economic Community was originally founded in 1957. The TFEU and the Treaty on the European Union (TEU or Maastricht Treaty) together form the constitutional basis of the European Union (EU).

Verwaltungsgericht (VG)

Administrative court

Administrative courts hear and rule on public law disputes (see also **Oberverwaltungsgericht**).

Vollzeitstudium

Full-time study

See also **Teilzeitstudium**.

W

Widerspruch/Widerspruchsbescheid

Challenge to/Ruling on an objection

A challenge can be made to an administrative act of a public authority (such as the immigration authority). However, the validity of an administrative act must be challenged in writing within one month of its notification.

If the immigration authority does not comply with the objection, a ruling on the objection is made by the next higher authority.

Wohnberechtigungsschein

Certificate of eligibility for social housing

See also **Sozialwohnung**.

Wohngeld

Housing benefit

Housing benefit provides financial help towards housing costs for people who are on low incomes but who are able to pay all their living expenses apart from their housing costs.

Claimants of ALG II (Hartz IV) or other supplementary social welfare benefits are therefore not eligible for housing benefit.

Aufenthalts- und Sozialrecht für internationale Studierende
Residency and Social Security Law for International Students
Glossar | Glossary

Impressum | Imprint

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