

# Chancenkarte (Opportunity Card)

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## What is an Opportunity Card?

The Opportunity Card (since 01.06.2024) is a new legal basis in the German Residence Act to manage and facilitate the job search in Germany. Besides looking for a job, the Opportunity Card also allows to look for measures to recognise foreign professional qualifications in Germany.

## To whom does this leaflet apply?

People **looking for** a job or self-employment in Germany, holding a German or foreign **vocational degree** that took at least two years to complete or a **university degree**, both state-recognised. People, that are looking for measures to receive recognition of their foreign professional qualifications.

Skilled workers (with recognised university or vocational degree as per §18(3) AufenthG), can qualify for an Opportunity Card without the point-based system (**privileged Opportunity Card**). Everybody else must score a minimum of point and meet the minimum requirements (**Opportunity Card for non-skilled workers**).

The Opportunity Card is initially valid for **max. one year** and can be extended to an extra two years in Germany. The Opportunity Card can be replaced by a residence permit in Germany.

The Opportunity Card allows to have one or more **part-time jobs** totalling 20 hours a week. You can also do qualified **job trials** for a maximum of two weeks. Job trials must not be the main purpose of residence.

You can only **apply for** an Opportunity Card **within Germany** if your previous stay had the purpose of employment or training (e.g., previous stay with purpose of recognition partnership or visit of a language course). Nationals as per §41(1) AufenthV do not need to prove a previous stay for a direct application within Germany.

You can find further information here: [www.make-it-in-germany.com](http://www.make-it-in-germany.com). You can also run the non-binding "[Self-Check: Chancenkarte](#)" provided by "Make it in Germany" in order to find out if you meet the requirements for an Opportunity Card or if you score enough points.

<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/de/visum-aufenthalt/arten/chancenkarte-jobsuche>

<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/de/newsletter/chancenkarte>

<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/de/visum-aufenthalt/self-check-chancenkarte>

1. Please read the following information and the list of documents carefully.
2. Prepare the required documents for the application.
3. Book an [appointment](#).
4. Please sort your documents in the given order.

Please note:

- Due to the high workload and in order to ensure equal treatment of all applicants, the visa section can only accept applications in the requested form for processing.
- Submitting incomplete documents may lead to the rejection of the application.
- Unsolicited documents cannot be assigned to your application.
- All documents, leaflets and application forms provided by the Embassy are free of charge.
- All information on the application procedure is available on our [website](#).
- For research in the anabin database, please refer to the separate [leaflet "Notes on ANABIN"](#) with detailed instructions on how to retrieve the necessary information on your university degree.
- Please refrain from submitting status requests. Status requests do not speed up the visa process.

### What kind of documents need to be submitted?

<b>1</b>	<b>Visa application form</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Completed either in German or English	The application form is available free of charge on our website. We recommend using the VIDEX-System to complete the application electronically: <a href="https://videx.diplo.de/videx/visum-erfassung/videx-lang-fristiger-aufenthalt">https://videx.diplo.de/videx/visum-erfassung/videx-lang-fristiger-aufenthalt</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Additional information on availability and representation	You find the form on <a href="#">our website</a> .
<input type="checkbox"/>	Information "opportunity card" for people over 44 years of age	You find the form on <a href="#">our website</a> .
<b>2</b>	<b>Travel document</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	passport <u>AND</u> a non-certified copy of all pages with entries	The passport must have at least two blank pages and must have been issued within the previous ten years. The passport does not remain at the Embassy during the visa procedure. It must only be presented when applying for a visa and later for verification.
<b>3</b>	<b>Residence permit</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Valid residence permit for Latvia: D-Visa or residence card <u>AND</u> a non-certified copy (card: front and back)	
<b>4</b>	<b>Habitual residence</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof of habitual residence in Latvia	-e.g., through a current electricity or gas bill, tenancy agreement, registration card, excerpt of civil register, work or study certificate -the document must show your current address -alternately you can show a refugee registration or a different official letter issued by an authority that confirms your current address
<b>5</b>	<b>Passport photos</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A current biometric passport photo	The photo must meet <a href="#">certain requirements</a> . Please do not glue the photo to the application form.

6	<b>Financing</b> - minimum <b>1,091 Euro per month</b> - evidence of your own sufficient funds of the amount of EUR 13,092 to support yourself during <b>your whole stay</b> of 12 months. If you hold less funds, you can apply for a shorter visa.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>own funds:</b> - Payment of the required amount (less the contractually agreed services) into a blocked account in Germany  <i>OR</i> - Bank statement from a Latvian or German bank	Information concerning the opening of a blocked account can be found on the <a href="#">website</a> of the Federal Foreign Office.  - The bank statement must prove that you own enough money to finance your entire stay. - The actual funds must be in your own account (not from a third party!) and must have been in your account for at least 90 days prior to the application. - As proof of own funds, we can only accept bank statements for the last three months prior to the application.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>OR</i> <b>secondary employment</b> - employment contract or concrete job offer	The document must show the weekly working time and the monthly income
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>OR</i> <b>Formal obligation</b> according to §§ 66-68 AufenthG. - <a href="#">förmliche Verpflichtungserklärung gem. §§ 66-68 AufenthG</a> (original with one non-certified copy)	With the statement “creditworthiness proven” and “Job Seeker” (“Bonität nachgewiesen” und “Arbeitsplatzsuche”). Please contact the competent Aliens Authority at the place of residence of your sponsor. The Embassy can only accept a declaration of commitment in exceptional cases. <sup>1</sup>
<b>7a Proof of qualification for privileged Opportunity Card</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	University diploma <i>OR</i> Proof of completed professional training (training period min. 2 years) <i>AND</i> notarized translation (Diploma in the English language do not require translation). (original document with a non-certified copy)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>AND</i> Proof of equivalence/comparability of your degree (Information on degree’s recognition and ways of proving, you can find in our <a href="#">leaflet “Information on degree’s recognition”</a> )	
<b>7b Proof of qualification for Opportunity Card for non-skilled workers</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	University diploma <i>OR</i> Proof of completed professional training (training period min. 2 years) <i>AND</i> notarized translation (Diploma in the English language do not require translation). (original document with a non-certified copy)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	For <u>university diploma</u> : Recognised (conditional) comparability of the foreign university degree (excerpt of <a href="#">anabin-database</a> proving your university degree as “conditionally comparable” and your university listed as “H+” or “H+/-“).	

<sup>1</sup> The German Embassy in Riga can only accept a declaration of commitment if there is no other way to prove that you can secure your livelihood. Furthermore, we must assume that a credit check would be positive and the declaration of commitment would be enforceable in Germany. The obligor must have assets in Germany, e.g. a German bank account, so that the obligor's creditworthiness is "proven".

	<p>OR</p> <p>Notification of the result of the certificate evaluation procedure at the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) (certificate of recognition), information under: <a href="http://www.kmk.org/zab.html">www.kmk.org/zab.html</a></p> <p><u>For proof of professional training:</u></p> <p>Formal recognition of your foreign qualification by the competent recognition office. You can find information here: <a href="http://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de">www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de</a> (for vocational degree) and <a href="http://www.kmk.org/zab.html">www.kmk.org/zab.html</a> (for university degree)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Confirmation of the <a href="http://www.bibb.de">Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training</a> (BIBB) for a vocational training completed at a German Chamber of Commerce Abroad (AHK)</p>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Language Skills	
	<p>minimum basic German language proficiency (level A1)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>minimum advanced English language proficiency (level B2)</p> <p>(original document with non-certified copy)</p>	<p>- To find out which certificates are currently recognised, please visit <a href="https://www.alte.org/Our-Full-Members">https://www.alte.org/Our-Full-Members</a>.</p> <p>- You still need to show a certificate if English is the common or official language in your country of origin</p> <p>- examination date max. 1 year ago</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Further proofs for point-based system	
	<p>Possible selection criteria for the scoring system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partial assessment notice for a foreign professional qualification</li> <li>- German or English language proficiency higher than minimum requirement (German higher than A1, English higher than B2)</li> <li>- work experience (min. 2 years within the past 5 years, indirect relation between qualification and work experience; proof through reference or confirmation of former employer)</li> <li>- legal previous stay in German (min. 6 months continuous stay within the past 5 years; excluded: touristic or short visit stays, Schengen-legal short-term stays; proof through visa or blue card (EU) or other resident permits with entry- <u>and</u> exit stamps in passport or confirmation of registration)</li> <li>- spouse/civil partner who meets the requirements of an Opportunity card</li> </ul> <p>The application has to be submitted to the same relevant visa office. The intention must be to enter Germany together. Proof through marriage certificate, civil partnership certificate or extract from the marriage or civil status register.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Proof of accommodation</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof of accommodation in Germany with full address details (e.g., rental agreement, hotel reservation, letter of invitation)	
<b>9</b>	<b>Health insurance</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Private health insurance (mostly called “incoming-insurance”), that covers your whole stay in Germany. For more information, visit <a href="#">our website</a> .	
<b>10</b>	<b>Visa fee</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	75,00 € to be paid by credit card (Mastercard / Visa) or in cash	
The embassy reserves the right to request further documents in individual cases.		

Processing time:

Around two to four weeks, in individual cases shorter or longer.

If the Embassy has any questions during the course of your visa procedure or if additional documents need to be submitted, we will contact you directly.