

Information for former local staff in Afghanistan who already arrived in Germany

In the following, you can find an overview of the procedure after entering Germany as well as important information about life in Germany.

Your first days in Germany: Where will you be accommodated?

- After you arrive in Germany, you will be met at the airport and once you have been registered, you will first be accommodated in an initial reception facility before you will be transported to your assigned place of residence.
- After you arrive at your assigned place of residence in Germany, you will be provided with a place to stay. For a short time, this may be refugee housing with shared living areas. There you will be given all the remaining information about the admission process. If you receive social assistance benefits, as a rule you will have to stay in your assigned federal state. If you find employment and no longer receive social assistance benefits, you may move to any other federal state in Germany.
- If you do not have identity documents from your home country, you may in some cases need to contact your country's embassy in Germany to receive the necessary documents. If that is not necessary, you will receive a passport substitute document from Germany. You will not be able to travel outside of Germany until you have valid identity documents.

What kind of residence permit will you have in Germany?

- You will be issued with a residence permit according to section 22 sentence 2 of Germany's Residence Act (*Aufenthaltsgesetz, AufenthG*).
- This residence permit will be valid for up to three years and may be renewed, if the reasons for which it was issued still apply.

What rights does your residence permit give you?

Your residence permit gives you certain rights in Germany:

- **The right to take up employment**

Your residence permit allows you to work without restrictions.

Please note that the labour market in Germany is very demanding. There are not many jobs for people who have not finished school or vocational training.

To find work in Germany, you will need to learn German as quickly as possible.

Your local employment office or job centre will help you get training and look for work.

- **Recognition of qualifications acquired outside of Germany**

Under certain conditions, school-leaving certificates and higher education degrees received abroad can be recognised in Germany. Official recognition of your degrees will make it easier for you to find work. If you have such certificates, degrees or documents, you will need to bring them with you to Germany.



- **Social assistance**

If you are capable of working, you will receive financial assistance until you have found a job. If you are temporarily or permanently unable to work, you can apply for certain social assistance benefits. This is for example the case, if you cannot work due to age, illness or the need to look after your young children.

- **Child care and schools for your children**

Your children will go to school in Germany. In most cases, children are required to go to school starting at age six. Children may attend public schools free of charge.

Child care is available for children younger than age six. We recommend sending your children to child care, which will help them to learn German. This will also help them to do better in school later on.

- **Immigration of other relatives**

As a rule, visas are already issued to your core family (a spouse and their own minor children) so that they can travel to Germany with you. Besides that, the rules of family reunification are strict. In principle, this is only possible for one spouse and your own underage children. As a rule, this legal option does not exist for other family members.

In general, the following conditions apply to the immigration of family members: you must have sufficient income for yourself and your family members; you must have sufficient living space in Germany for yourself and your family members; and your spouse and children aged 16 and older must have acquired German language skills in their home country. It will be difficult to satisfy these conditions during the first few years after you arrive in Germany.

Life in Germany

It is important that you recognise and take advantage of the opportunities that a new start in Germany offers you, even if it does come with major challenges for you and your family.

The better you get to know and understand the country, the easier it will be for you to manage these challenges. You will be supported in integrating yourself successfully into society in the long term. However, this goal can only be achieved with your active cooperation. It is particularly important that you learn the German language and familiarise yourself with the basic structure of the government, culture, history and the legal system in Germany.

Various services are available to help you:

Migration counselling

An initial integration offer is provided by the migration counselling services. In a personal conversation with you, the advisors will get an overview of your individual situation and help you to quickly find your way around in your new environment. In the process, you will learn how to take control of your own affairs.

You can ask your counsellor about all aspects of daily life, such as

- legal questions related to residence



- learning the German language (for example by participating in an integration course)
- school education, vocational training (different types of schools, dual apprenticeship system)
- employment (for example training in how to apply for jobs; job search)
- economic situation (for example income, state aid)
- housing (for example looking for an apartment, paying rent)
- health (for example medical services, health insurance)
- marriage, family and child-raising (for example pregnancy)

The advisors often also understand your language. They are familiar with the social, cultural and religious background that are familiar to you. Together with you, they will develop a plan that will give you orientation for taking the first steps towards integration in Germany, with a focus on your personal skills and experience. Based on this plan, you will receive as much assistance as you wish until you are able to manage daily life on your own.

You can find the counselling office closest to you and other information on our website at <https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/de/> (in German) or <https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/en/> (in English).

Integration courses

- If your German language skills are not yet sufficient, or if you are receiving state benefits as part of the basic security for job seekers, you can be obliged to attend an integration course by the immigration authorities or the provider of basic security. In addition, you have the option to be approved by BAMF to take part in an integration course, if course places are available.
- In the language module of the integration course, you will learn to find your way around in German in all important areas of daily life.
- In the orientation module, you will learn about the legal system, culture and history of Germany. You will receive information about life in German society, including the democratic system and the values that are especially important in Germany. All of these things are important for understanding the society you will be a part of.
- Special integration courses are offered for people who are illiterate, women, parents and young people. These courses cover additional topics.
- For example, in the parent integration course, fathers and mothers receive information about the German school system and child-care services. In this course, you will be able to meet other parents and will learn how to help your children adjust to life in Germany. The integration courses for women are designed for women who are raising children and would like to learn German with other women. The courses for parents and those for women both provide information on child-raising and education, orientation in daily life and prospects for entering everyday working life.

Language courses for professionals

In order to improve your chances on the German training or labour market, you can participate in a language course for professionals after having completed the integration course. The language courses for professionals cover profession-related German, specifically tailored to the German labour market. After passing the language test at the end of the integration course, you are eligible to attend a language course for professionals at B2 level in the target language. This course comprises 400 or 500 study units. However, if you already have a good knowledge of German, you may also be able to join a



B2 or C1 language course for professionals straight away. If you are a doctor with a completed qualification or if you have been trained as a specialist in the health profession, have an adequate knowledge of German and are in the process of receiving recognition for your vocational training completed abroad, you may be eligible for a specialised language qualification via specialised vocational language courses.

If you have not passed the integration course language test, it is possible to join a specialised vocational language course in which German with a vocational focus is taught a lower level than B1.

You will require an authorisation in order to participate in a language course for professionals. If you receive public benefits or are registered at the Federal Employment Agency as seeking training, seeking employment or as unemployed, the agency administering jobseekers' benefits will issue an authorisation to participate. If you are already employed, in training or if you are in the process of receiving recognition for your vocational training completed abroad, the Federal Office will issue an authorisation to participate upon your request.

For more information about integration courses, please contact the BAMF regional office in your area.

For contact details and other information, please visit our website at <https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/de/> (in German) or <https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/en/> (in English).