

National Visa for Employment

EU Blue Card

→ for skilled workers holding a university degree

→ for IT specialists with at least 3 years of comparable professional experience

[Section 18g (1, 2) Residence Act]

General Information

As a skilled worker with a university degree recognized in Germany, you will be issued an EU Blue Card if the employment you want to take up matches your professional qualifications and you can present a contract of employment certifying a gross annual salary of at least 50,700.00 EUR in 2026. The period of employment must be at least six months.

A lower salary threshold (in 2026: 45,934.20 EUR) applies to [bottleneck professions](#), new entrants' to the labor market as well as IT specialists.

The regulation for new entrants' applies to foreigners who have graduated from university within the last three years if their job in Germany earns them a minimum of 45,934.20 EUR. This applies to both bottleneck professions and regular occupations.

Visa application checklist

Please use the following checklist to make sure that your documents are complete.

Please submit the documents listed below in according order.

Please do not staple any documents.

Incomplete documentation may result in the rejection of your application.

Original required	Copy required	
☒	☐	Fully completed and signed application and signed declaration
☒	☐	One (1) recent biometric passport photo (see specimen photos)
☒	☒	Signed passport meeting the following requirements: a. Its validity must exceed the duration of the intended stay in Germany by at least 3 months b. It must contain at least 2 blank pages c. It must have been issued (not extended!) within the past 10 years
☒	☒	Residence permit in the U.S., e.g. Visa, Green Card, U.S. passport
☐	☒	Proof of address, e.g. valid driver's license, utility bill, lease
☐	☒	Completed form signed by your employer: Declaration of employment There is a minimum salary requirement for the EU Blue Card which is set once a year by the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community. In 2026, the minimum salary requirements are: 45,934.20 EUR for bottleneck professions, new entrants and IT specialists 50,700.00 EUR for all other occupations

→ more information on following page(s)



Original required	Copy required	
☒	☒	Qualification → German university degree or → Foreign university degree fulfilling information below (recognition of the qualification) If your university degree does not state the courses you studied, please also submit your transcript. For IT specialists: → Proof of comparable professional experience in the IT sphere
☐	☒	Proof of recognition of the qualification → Printout from the anabin database on the qualification <u>and</u> on the institution (Instructions for using the anabin database) If the qualification is not assessed as “entspricht” (comparable) or “gleichwertig” (equivalent) and/or the institution is not classified as “H+” → Statement of Comparability by the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) or In the case of regulated professions in which permission is required to exercise the profession, for example, doctors, engineers; complete list is available from the Federal Employment Agency or the European Commission) → Permission to exercise a profession issued by the authority responsible for recognising qualifications or assurance of permission to exercise a profession (e.g. for medical professions: decision of the licensing authority in the federal territory, i.e. assurance of permission to exercise a profession and/or issuing of medical licence) More information on recognition: www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de
☐	☒	Proof of adequate health insurance coverage Health insurance coverage is required at the time of entry into the Schengen area. Usually statutory health insurance coverage provided by the university or future employer only goes into effect when you take up residency and enter into employment/begin with your studies. If you enter before, an additional private (travel) health insurance in line with EU standards (covering the entire Schengen area, minimum coverage of 30,000 EUR) must be purchased for the duration of time until you begin your employment/your studies and are covered through the statutory health insurance. Please ensure that your travel health insurance does not exclude protection if a long term or permanent stay is planned.

→ more information on following page(s)



Visa application fees

Processing fee:

Payable in cash and/or by visa/Mastercard

(please verify with the competent German mission prior to your appointment)

Conversion into USD is made based on the exchange rate at the time of the application.

Completeness of application

The application is complete:

☐ Yes ☐ No, the documents/information indicated above are lacking.

Declaration when application is not complete:

I have been informed that my application is not complete. I am aware that submitting an incomplete application can lead to the application being rejected.

I would like to submit my application nevertheless.

_____ place, date, signature

This information sheet has been prepared with utmost care. It is intended to provide a point of reference to our clients but may not be fully applicable to every individual case. If you have further, more specific questions which are not answered by the information contained here nor on our website www.germany.info/visa, please contact the German Embassy/Consulate General serving your U.S. home state.