Information for International Students

Visas, residence permits and work permits before, during and after your studies
This information brochure is intended to provide international students who choose to study in Hamburg with the most important information about aspects of their life in Hamburg and the various rights of residence. It does not replace personal consultation on important matters as offered by many bodies in Hamburg mentioned in this brochure.

The information brochure describes the legal position in January 2014. It is intended that legal changes will be updated promptly. Nevertheless legal changes, as well as changes to addresses or telephone numbers, may impair the accuracy of this brochure or make parts of it invalid. The editors will be happy to receive any information in this respect.

The text is based on the information brochure “Information for International Students - Visas, Residence Permits and Work Permits before, during and after your Studies” from Department 52 of the University of Hamburg. The Department of the Interior and Sport would like to thank the University for so generously making the texts available.

Dear students,
we apologize that a new German version from 2016 is available but not yet a new English version. As about 95 % of this 2014 version is still valid we decided not to delete this English 2014 version so that English speaking students get informed as well. The most important changes are:

1. Entry visa: please make sure that you know the current information. You will find all the information on the webpage of the German mission of the country where you apply for your visa: http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Laenderinformationen/DtAuslandsvertretungenA-Z-Laenderauswahlseite_node.html
2. The special regulations for Croatia were only valid until 30.06.2015.
3. As proof of your means of subsistence you must demonstrate to the Foreigners Registration Department the sources from which you are financing your studies. The minimum amount changed from 659 (until August 2016) to 720 euros per month.

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1 Entry

1.1 Entry from the EU-28 states, from states belonging to the EEA and from Switzerland\(^1\)

If you are a national of one of these states you do not need an entry visa. This also applies if as a non-EU national you live in an EU member state and have a long-term residence permit there within the meaning of the EU long-term residence directive.\(^2\)

1.2 Entry from non-EU states

No entry visa is required for entry from the following states: Australia, Brazil, Israel, Japan, Canada, Republic of Korea, New Zealand and USA.

Before entering from other non-EU states, however, a visa for the purpose of university application or studies must be applied for in good time from the German embassy. If you already have a written acceptance from a university for your university place or your preparatory measure (language course, preparatory college, propaedeutic course, etc.) you can apply directly for a visa for the purpose of studies. If this is not the case and you have only just applied or need to take an admission examination in Germany for your application, then you must apply for a student applicant visa.

You must allow two to three months’ processing time for the visa.\(^3\) It is therefore recommended that you apply early for a student applicant visa so you are able to enter Germany in time for the start of your studies. Do not wait for confirmation of your university place, but apply for a student applicant visa with the application confirmation from the university. You can convert the student applicant visa into a residence permit for studying once you are in Germany. If you do not get a university place, you will have paid the costs of the visa for nothing, but if you are accepted you will have the security of being able to enter Germany in good time.

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\(^1\) Member states of the European Union (EU-28) are: Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Slovakia, Spain, the Czech Republic and Cyprus (EU-27) as well as Croatia. The special regulations on freedom of movement for workers apply for Croatia initially until 30.06.2015.

The European Economic Area (EEA) comprises the member states of the European Union plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

Unless otherwise stated below, the regulations for the EU-27 also apply to nationals of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.


\(^3\) Information on the course of the visa procedure and why it takes two to three months can be found here. [http://www.hamburg.de/contentblob/103184/data/visum_allgemein.pdf](http://www.hamburg.de/contentblob/103184/data/visum-allgemein.pdf)
If your planned study stay in Germany is to last no more than a maximum of one year (for instance, as an Erasmus student), you should apply for a visa for the appropriate period there and then, so that you will not then later have to apply for a chargeable electronic residence title from the Foreigners Registration Department (Ausländerbehörde).

You will find all the information on applying for visas on this webpage:

www.auswaertiges-amt.de/DE/EinreiseUndAufenthalt/Visabestimmungen_node.html

Please note that three-month Schengen visas (“tourist visas”) are not sufficient and cannot be extended for a study stay.

2 Right of Residence during Studies

2.1 Students from EU-28 states

International students from the EU-28 states enjoy freedom of movement. This also applies to their spouses and children, even if the latter are not themselves EU citizens.

Since 29 January 2013, EU citizens and nationals of EEA states no longer receive a special freedom of movement certificate from the Foreigners Registration Department. This is a result of Article 1 No. 5 b) of the law amending the Freedom of Movement for EU Citizens Act (Freizügigkeitsgesetz/EU) and other residence-related legal provisions of 21 January 2013 (Federal Law Gazette – BGBl, p. 86), which abolishes the declaratory certification of right of residence for EU citizens (Freizügigkeitsbescheinigung or freedom of movement certificate), in order to financially relieve municipal administrations and reduce bureaucracy.

As proof that EU citizens or nationals of EEA states are residing in Germany and are exercising their right of freedom of movement here, they need forthwith use only the registration certificate (Meldebescheinigung) issued by their local registration office (Meldebehörde). Family members from third countries must be interviewed by the Foreigners Registration Department office of the district authority competent for their place of residence and verify their family status as well as sufficient means of subsistence, including health insurance cover there. They will then receive a residence card within six months.

2.2 Students from Non-EU States

2.2.1 General

International students from non-EU countries must apply for a residence permit for study purposes no later than six weeks before expiry of their entry visa. This applies whether or not an entry visa was necessary. The residence permit for study purposes will routinely be issued only for full-time studies and not, for instance, for extra-occupational study courses. Foreign students from non-EU countries who have had a student applicant visa or a visa for preparatory measures (language course, preparatory college, propaedeutic course, etc.), as well as students who have been freed from the visa requirement, must apply to the Foreigners Registration Department at their district authority for a new residence permit for studies immediately after they have taken up their university place and registered as a student.

The residence permit is valid for a maximum of two years and must therefore be regularly extended during the study period. The residence permit is bound to the studies. Changing a course of studies or breaking off studies may lead to loss of the right of residence. Anybody who changes their course of studies with the permission of the university must immediately (not waiting for the registered expiry date of the previous residence permit) apply to the Foreigners Registration Department for an altered residence title (see No. 2.2.11 below on this). Following successful conclusion of a course of studies, there is for 18 months the option of
seeking a job in Germany corresponding to the degree and receiving a new residence permit for this period.

2.2.2 What other residence titles can be converted to a residence permit for studies?

A residence permit for a stay as an au pair in Germany (but not in another EU country) may be converted into a residence permit for purposes of study; however, enquiries must be made at the Foreigners Registration Department in good time before the existing residence permit expires.

A residence permit for voluntary service may be converted into a residence permit for purposes of study; however, enquiries must be made at the Foreigners Registration Department in good time before the existing residence permit expires.

CAUTION: A tourist visa can NOT be converted into a residence permit for purposes of study, nor into a residence permit for university application or preparation for studies. A visa for purposes of study or a student applicant visa (recommended) must therefore be applied for first at the German diplomatic mission in the country of origin.

2.2.3 Language course, preparatory college and other study preparation measures

Should you not yet have sufficient knowledge of German or an entitlement to study at a German university, you may complete appropriate study preparation measures in Hamburg. You have two years for this.

If you take part in study preparation measures, you must apply for a university place for the subsequent studies in good time. If there are more than six months between the conclusion of your study preparation measure and the beginning of your studies, please inform the local Foreigners Registration Department office.

2.2.3.1 Language courses

The course must be an intensive language course that concludes with one of the following language certificates:

- Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang ausländischer Studienbewerber (DSH) (German language examination for university entrance for foreign student applicants)
- Test Deutsch als Fremdsprache (TestDaF) (Test for German as a foreign language) (http://www.testdaf.de/teilnehmer/tn-pruefung_testzentren_de.php?alphabetId=3#H)
- Goethe-Zertifikat C2: Großes Deutsches Sprachdiplom (Higher German language certificate)

Special information on required language skills and proof of language skills can be found at www.sprachnachweis.de as well as on the websites of the Hamburg universities (see under 10.5).

2.2.3.2 Preparatory college

Student applicants whose foreign education certificates do not permit direct entry into university must show in an examination that they meet the linguistic, technical and methodological requirements for studies at a German university. This examination is called the Feststellungsprüfung (assessment test) and can be taken in Hamburg at the preparatory college of the University of Hamburg. Following the Feststellungsprüfung, you may apply for a university place in Hamburg or elsewhere in Germany.
Information on the foreign education certificates which make attendance at the preparatory college necessary or allow direct admission to a university can be found at → Schulabschlüsse mit Hochschulzugang (school leaving certificates with university admission) → Suchen nach Schulabschlüssen (search for school leaving certificates) at the information portal for the recognition of foreign education levels (“anabin”).

Preparation for the Feststellungsprüfung is usually done in the subject courses of the preparatory college, which last a year. More detailed information can be found at http://www.studienkolleg-hamburg.de. For information on your options of working at the same time as attending the preparatory college see 3.2 below.

2.2.4 Can my spouse and my children enter Germany with me or join me later?

Yes, if sufficient living space is available and financial resources are assured. If your spouse also intends to enter for purposes of study, the same conditions apply as for your stay (see 2.2.7 below). If this is not the case, you must have an income which is sufficient for your family not to have recourse to social assistance in Germany. How much this is in individual cases can be learned from your Foreigners Registration Department office or in the visa process from the German diplomatic mission.

2.2.5 Where and how do I apply for a residence permit?

You can make the initial application for your residence title (and the initial registration of your place of residence) during an appointment with the Hamburg Welcome Center www.welcome.hamburg.de (please book ahead) or directly in the Foreigners Registration Department office responsible for your residential district. For a later extension of your residence permit you must visit the Foreigners Registration Department office in your residential district.

In each of the seven district offices there is at least one department responsible for foreigners with regulated residence status. You can find out the Foreigners Registration office responsible for your address here: www.hamburg.de/behoeordenfinder

2.2.6 What documents do I need?

• Fully completed application form Download: www.welcome.hamburg.de/formulare
• National passport
• Biometrically compliant photograph (no older than six months)
• Current registration confirmation (or registration sheet filled at the HWC)
• Rental agreement or other proof of accommodation
• Current certificate of study
• Proof of financing (see following item)

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4 Sufficient living space is deemed to be 12 sqm of living area for every family member over six years old and 10 sqm of living area for each family member under six years old, as long as ancillary rooms (kitchen, bathroom, WC) can also be used to a suitable extent
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2.2.7 Proof of financing:

This is needed because according to the residence law it is assumed that foreign students can finance their subsistence themselves.

For this reason you may not in principle draw state benefits during a stay according to § 16 AufenthG (residence law), that is while you possess a residence permit according to § 16 AufenthG for the purpose of study. For most state benefits this is also excluded by the fact that possessors of residence permits according to § 16 AufenthG are not entitled to benefits (for instance child allowance and parental allowance and basic security for the unemployed and people unable to work).

Housing allowance as a special case:

Things are however different in the case of housing allowance. With a residence permit according to § 16 AufenthG you may be entitled to a housing allowance. You may however only draw a housing allowance if your means of subsistence as a student is already otherwise secured and the housing allowance is only drawn supplementarily. This may be the case for students with a child. If you draw a housing allowance without your remaining means of subsistence being secured, this is grounds for the Foreigners Registration Department to revoke your residence permit and call on you to leave the country.

For international students with a residence permit according to § 16 AufenthG it is therefore recommended that they seek advice at all costs before making any application for housing allowance.

As proof of your means of subsistence you must demonstrate to the Foreigners Registration Department the sources from which you are financing your studies. The minimum amount is the maximum subsidy according to the federal law on individual subsidising of education, currently 659 euros per month. You must show proof that you have this monthly sum for the whole period for which you are applying for a residence permit, so usually for at least a year; which amounts to a sum of 7,908 euros per year.

The following may serve as proof of financing:

- An undertaking in which someone guarantees to the Foreigners Registration Department that they will pay all expenses that may arise for the German state due to the stay of a foreign national. An undertaking may be given by any person who resides permanently and lawfully in Germany. In this case the guarantor must show proof of their income. They may not be living on social security and must earn enough money to be able to finance both their own subsistence and/or their family and the foreign student. An undertaking given for an entry visa is valid for the entire course of study. Further proof of financing is not required.
- A grant from German public funds or a subsidising organisation recognised in Germany or public funds from the country of origin if the DAAD or another German grant-providing organisation has taken on the intermediation.
- Proof of the income circumstances of the parents. In certain cases it may be necessary to be able to show how the money is obtained (e.g. account statements with corresponding transfers).
- A student’s own account statement which shows that they have enough money to finance themselves for the period of the residence permit applied for.
- In certain cases a student may also use the income gained from work requiring no work permit for 120 days or 240 half days as part of the proof of financing (submit employment contract). Recognition is however at the discretion of the respective Foreigners Registration Department office.
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- Deposit of an annually renewable bank guarantee.

You may also combine these various proofs, i.e. for example a grant / support from your parents of 400 euros a month with earnings of 259 euros from a student job.

2.2.8 Electronic residence permit and costs:

Since September 2011 residence permits have been issued as electronic residence titles in credit card format. (Info: [www.bamf.de](http://www.bamf.de) ➔ Das BAMF ➔ IT-Dienstleistungen ➔ Angebote ➔ Der elektronische Aufenthaltstitel.) The electronic residence title counts as proof of identity only in exceptional cases, namely when it has been designated an "Ausweisersatz", or substitute identity card, by the Foreigners Registration Department. If this is not the case, you will therefore additionally need your passport if you need to officially prove your identity anywhere. For everyday purposes however it will be enough if you have your electronic residence title on you, which also has your address on it.

The following applies to the electronic residence title:

- Previous residence permits retain their validity. An electronic residence title need only be applied for when a limited residence permit runs out or when there is a new national passport.
- A personal interview at the Foreigners Registration Department is necessary to apply for or extend a residence title so that all relevant data including fingerprints can be collected. Children from six years upwards must also give fingerprints. As before the usual/necessary documents for extending the validity period of the residence title must again be presented.
- A current biometric passport photograph is to be provided.
- The data will be sent by the Foreigners Registration Department to the federal printing office, where the electronic residence title will be produced and then sent to the local Foreigners Registration Department office. (This is likely to take from about four to six weeks, during which time applicants should refrain from personal or telephone enquiries.)
- The electronic residence permit must then be collected from the Foreigners Registration Department.

Given this procedure an interview will in future be necessary – some six to eight weeks before expiry of the previous residence title.

The fee for issuing a residence permit in the form of the electronic residence title is 100 euros for a validity period of up to one year and 110 euros for a validity period of more than one year. The fee for extending a residence permit by more than three months is 80 euros, or 90 euros if at the same time it involves a change in the purpose of residence. Reduced fees apply to Turkish students who have acquired rights according to Decision No. 1/80 of the Association Council of 19 September 1980 on association (ARB 1/80).
2.2.9 Travel abroad

With a German residence title you have the benefit of freedom to travel within the Schengen area and can therefore travel to the Schengen states\(^5\) without border controls and stay there for up to three months within a six-month period. For this you need to carry your passport, your residence title and sufficient means of subsistence.

For journeys to non-Schengen states you will regularly - depending on the provisions respectively applying there for your home country - need a visa, which you must apply for at the embassy of your country of destination here in Germany. This applies in particular also to Great Britain and Ireland. The embassies will also provide you with information on whether you must have a visa, and what requirements apply in each case.

Apart from this the following must be taken into account: Any stay outside Germany that lasts longer than six months will automatically lead to forfeiture of the residence permit unless a longer period has previously been agreed expressly in writing with the Foreigners Registration Department.

2.2.10 Holiday semesters

During your studies you may according to the regulations of higher education law take a temporary holiday for a compelling reason. Holiday semesters may be applied for e.g. for the following reasons (observe the matriculation rules of your university):

- A long-term illness
- A study visit to a domestic or foreign university
- In the context of pregnancy / maternity protection / parental leave
- Completing a voluntary practical semester, whereby the restrictions in work permit law must be observed (see 3.2.1 below)
- Significant demands on time because of involvement in student self-administration committees

As long as you do not take a holiday for more than a single semester in the course of your studies, your residence permit for your studies will remain valid, and you do not need to be interviewed by the Foreigners Registration Department for this. Those who follow their bachelor studies with master studies may take a holiday of one semester during their bachelor studies and one semester during their master studies without affecting their residence title. Residence permits may also be extended during the holiday semester. You will retain all previous rights (120-day rule). If however you want to take more than one holiday semester, you must be interviewed at your Foreigners Registration Department office and justify this. If you already have the approval of the university, present this to the Foreigners Registration Department.

2.2.11 Change of study subject or university

A change of study subject in the first three semesters presents no problem, both within BA studies as well as again during the first three semesters of MA studies. In this case you do not need to be interviewed by the Foreigners Registration Department. A change in study subject means any change: 1st main subject or 2nd main subject in Bachelor, Master, Magister, Diplom or Staatsexamen.

From the 4th semester of any degree course every case will be individually decided by the Foreigners Registration Department and in principle only approved if the total period of studies is not prolonged to more than ten years. This must be confirmed by a statement from the uni-

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Please find out from the international office at your university who will issue such a statement for you (e.g. your professors, the examination office, the student's office, the international office, etc.).

Even a change to another university to continue studying the same subject is a change of purpose within the meaning of residence law, which you must coordinate with your Foreigners Registration Department office. Semesters abroad at a foreign university are also possible (see No. 5 below on this).

2.2.12 Further studies in Germany

After concluding a course of study you may follow it with further studies, a master study course or a doctorate. You may not study two bachelor study courses one after the other, however.

2.2.13 Total duration of studies

Residence for study purposes may last no longer than 10 years including preparation for studies, and up to 15 years if it includes a doctorate.

If you study

- longer than 11 semesters in a bachelor study course,
- longer than 6 semesters in a master study course or
- longer than 3 semesters in other study courses beyond the average duration of studies without having attained a degree and wish to have your residence permit extended again,

The Foreigners Registration Department will request a statement on the progress of your studies from your university. This statement must confirm that you will successfully complete your studies within the 10-year time limit.
3 Temping during studies

3.1 Students from EU-27 states

Students from the EU-27 states and their family members enjoy freedom of movement for workers and freedom of establishment and may work autonomously or for an employer without restriction.

3.2 Students from non-EU states and Croatia

International students (as well as participants in a preparatory college) from non-EU countries and Croatia may take temporary work, but must comply with a series of regulations in doing so.

During the first year of their study preparation measures (language course, preparatory college, propaedeutic course, etc.) they may not work at the same time. In the second year of their study preparation the following applies to students:

For students from non-EU states the residence permit for purposes of study states: “Employment up to 120 days or 240 half-days per year and performing secondary student work is allowed.”

For students from Croatia, who according to the treaties of accession are not more disadvantaged than nationals of non-EU states, the provisions of the residence law in their corresponding application therefore apply according to § 284 Para. 6 SGB III (social security code). They require no EU employment permit if they carry out employment to the named extent alongside their studies. Employment beyond this does however require a work permit.

This means:

3.2.1 120-day rule

International students from non-EU states and from Croatia may work 120 days or 240 half-days per year without needing the approval of the Employment Agency.

This employment may be divided up into individual sections, but at most may amount to 120 whole or 240 half-days per year. Jobs of up to four hours per day count as half days if the usual daily working time is eight hours. The longest period for a half day is five hours given a daily working time of ten hours. Night shifts of no more than eight hours count as one working day. This also makes permanent student jobs possible – e.g. on three working days per week over 40 weeks per year. Only those days are calculated on which you do actually work. Paid or unpaid holidays and sick days are consequently not credited to the 120 days or 240 half days. The calendar year is definitive for the calculation of the one-year period, regardless of when you enter the country or when you end your studies. Thus if for example you have already worked 120 days by October and then extend your residence permit, this will not give you another 120 days and you may not work again until January of the following year.

The level of your earnings plays no part in this. Regardless of whether you earn 400 or 1000 euros per month, you must ensure only that you do not exceed the time limit.

In principle it is true for all students in Germany that no more than 20 hours may be worked per week while the university is in session, in order to remain within the student social security system (above all here within the student health insurance scheme). Anyone who works more than 20 hours per week while the university is in session counts as an employee under social security law and must then pay earnings-related contributions to health, pension and unem-
ployment insurance schemes. Employee status under social security law may however lead to loss of your student residence permit if the amount of work you do impairs the success of your studies. You can seek advice on details from the Hamburg student union (see 10.3 below).

3.2.2 Secondary student activities

Students may also take part in secondary student activities with no time limit. Secondary student activities at universities and other academic institutions are possible with no time limit. This also applies to activities that do not take place at universities or other academic institutions but serve an educational purpose in the subject area of the studies, e.g. activities in university-related organisations such as the Hamburg student union, university associations, general student committees and the World University Service. Teaching assignments at Hamburg universities as well as occupations in connection with the ConAction project also count as secondary student activities. Ask at your Foreigners Registration Department office if you are unsure whether you are dealing with one of these secondary student activities.

3.2.3 Particularities for students from Croatia and Turkey

If you regularly pursue an occupation alongside your studies, whether in the context of the 120-day rule or as a secondary student activity, you may acquire certain rights that can make your access to the labour market and further residence in Germany easier during and after your studies. This is a result of the judgement of the European Court of Justice in the Payir case.

For students from Croatia this may be the case after a year of regular employment in the context of the 120-day rule or as a secondary student activity. Please clarify the details with the international placement service Zentrale Auslands- und Fachvermittlung (ZAV), citing the Payir judgement (see 10.2 below).

For Turkish students these employee rights are a result of Article 6 of Decision No. 1/80 of the EEC-Turkey Association Council on the development of the Association (ARB 1/80). Your rights as an employee become consolidated after a year of regular employment in the context of the 120-day rule or as a secondary student activity, and after four years free access to the labour market can be achieved. Your Foreigners Registration Department office will advise you on the details.

3.2.4 Exceeding the 120-day rule

If you wish to work more than 120 days in a year, you need a special permit for this which you must obtain beforehand:

- Students from non-EU states must apply for the permit from the Foreigners Registration Department, which must obtain the approval of the Employment Agency for this.
- Students from Croatia need an EU work permit, which they must apply for themselves from the ZAV (see 10.2 below).

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3. Temping during studies

Whether a work permit is issued for employment beyond this depends on the situation on the labour market. A guideline of the Employment Agency is to prioritise finding a job for all those people with free access to the labour market who come into question for the desired occupation. The duration of this “priority test” is very variable.

**Caution:** Anybody who works for more than 120 days (“off campus”) per year and has no permit from the Foreigners Registration Department is acting improperly and may be fined up to 5000 euros. The Foreigners Registration Department will also check whether revocation of the previous residence permit according to § 52 Para. 3 AufenthG comes into question and thereby the ending of your right of residence in Germany.

Whether the 120 days have already been used up must be checked by employees and employers.

### 3.2.5 Working autonomously

Students from Croatia have no restrictions on working autonomously as they enjoy freedom of establishment.

Students from non-EU states autonomous activities require a permit for autonomous activities.

If you receive a job offer which does not involve a 450 euro/month job and you will not be working on an income tax card but are to submit an invoice with tax number or a trade licence, then this is an autonomous activity which is only automatically permitted to EU citizens. Students from non-EU states require a separate permit from the Foreigners Registration Department for this.

Students from non-EU states who wish to engage in autonomous activity (e.g. teaching, translating, interpreting, etc.) may apply for a permit for this from the Foreigners Registration Department. Autonomous gainful employment may be allowed during studies, but only if this does not jeopardise the completion of the studies (e.g. when doing voluntary work in principle similarly to an employee). A permit for autonomous activity extending beyond the 120-day rule will usually only be granted when this involves activities in a limited timescale.

**If you are engaged in autonomous activities without a permit you are also acting improperly and may be fined up to 5000 euros and may be risking your right of residence in Germany.**

### 3.3 Family members

Your family members may have unrestricted gainful employment (i.e. autonomous and non-autonomous as an employee) if they enjoy freedom of movement themselves or if they have a residence title for the purpose of subsequent immigration of dependents according to §§ 27 to 36 AufenthG.
4 Internships during Studies

4.1 Students from EU-27 states

Students from the EU-27 states enjoy freedom of movement for workers and may engage in internships unrestrictedly.

4.2 Students from non-EU states and Croatia

Students from non-EU states and students from Croatia must take the following into account:

4.2.1 Internship abroad

An internship abroad is possible. Please check whether you need a visa for this (see above No. 2.2.9). If you intend to leave the country for longer than six months for your internship, you must be interviewed priorly – presenting the internship contract – at your local Foreigners Registration Department office and agree a correspondingly longer period for a temporary exit. If you do not do this, your residence permit will expire after six months.

4.2.2 Obligatory internships

In the case of obligatory internships stipulated in the study and examination regulations as a mandatory component of a course of studies, there are no particularities of residence law to be taken into account, i.e. an obligatory internship will always be permitted to you. The occupation involved in an obligatory internship will also not be credited to the 120 days of permitted occupation.

4.2.3 Voluntary internships

In terms of residence law, internships not stipulated in the examination regulations as a mandatory component of a course of studies are assessed as normal employment circumstances and are usually possible only in the context of the 120-day rule for work permit-free secondary activities (exceptions are practical examination projects and study-related activities at universities / research institutions). An internship counts as an occupation regardless of whether it is paid or unpaid.

If for example you intend to do a six-month internship or have already used up the 120 days for temporary work, the following applies:

Students from non-EU states need a permit from the Foreigners Registration Department, which must obtain the consent of the ZAV for this. The Foreigners Registration Department will first check whether the internship will mean that the maximum duration of ten years for a course of studies is exceeded, and the ZAV will ascertain whether it is an education-oriented internship (in which you will be learning something that contributes to your field of study) and not just a badly paid job.

Students from Croatia need an EU work permit, which they must apply for themselves from the ZAV (see No. 10.2 below). In these cases too, the ZAV will check whether it is an education-oriented internship (in which you will be learning something that contributes to your field of study) and not just a badly paid job.
5 Semesters Abroad

5.1 Students from EU states

As a citizen of the Union you may continue your studies at any university in the EU in the context of your right of freedom of movement. If you wish to spend a semester abroad at a university outside the EU, you must inform yourself of the conditions for entry and residence at the embassy of the respective country.

5.2 Students from non-EU states

You may automatically spend up to three months at a host university in the Schengen states. All you need is your passport, your residence title and sufficient means of subsistence (see No. 2.2.9 above on this).

In the case of longer stays you may benefit from the mobility regulations of the EU students’ directive\(^7\) for a semester abroad at a university in another EU member state (with the exception of Great Britain, Ireland and Denmark). To do this you must have a residence permit according to § 16 of the Residence Law (AufenthG) and in another EU member state either

- complete a prescribed part of your study programme, or
- participate in an exchange programme between member states, or
- participate in an EU exchange programme (e.g. ERASMUS).

To do this you must find out from the diplomatic mission of your target state here in Germany whether you need a visa (and if necessary apply for this) and if so submit certificates on your study or exchange programme from the universities involved as well as a full dossier on your previous academic career. Apart from this you must also prove that you have sufficient means of subsistence as well as sufficient health insurance cover.

For a foreign semester in Great Britain, Ireland, Denmark or a non-EU state you must inform yourself of the conditions for entry and residence at the diplomatic mission of your target state here in Germany.

In any event you should remember to apply for an interview at your respective local Foreigners Registration Department office if you intend to be out of the country for longer than six months and agree a correspondingly longer period for a temporary exit. Failing this, your residence permit will expire after six months.

6 Exchange or Guest Semesters in Hamburg

6.1 Mobility according to the EU students directive

If you are studying in another EU member state (with the exception of Great Britain, Ireland and Denmark) and wish to come to Hamburg for an exchange semester, you may also benefit from the privileges of the EU students directive.\(^8\) To do this you must have a residence permit for the purpose of study and in Hamburg either

- complete a prescribed part of your study programme, or
- participate in an exchange programme between member states, or
- participate in an EU exchange programme (e.g. ERASMUS).

6.1.1 From Schengen states

If the relevant member state is one of the Schengen states\(^9\) you may study for up to three months at a Hamburg university if you have your passport, your residence title from the other Schengen state and sufficient means of subsistence. For longer stays, if you possess a residence title issued by another Schengen state according to § 39 No. 6 of the Ordinance Governing Residence you may apply for a residence permit according to § 16 Para. 6 AufenthG to be granted here locally. You must make the application within the first three months of your stay in Hamburg.

6.1.2 From non-Schengen states

If the EU member state in which you have so far been studying is not one of the Schengen states you must apply for a visa at the German diplomatic mission in that member state and to that end submit certificates on your study or exchange programme from the universities involved as well as a full dossier on your previous academic career. You must also prove that you have sufficient means of subsistence as well as sufficient health insurance cover.

6.2 Other mobility

If you have so far been studying in Great Britain, Ireland, Denmark or a third country, for an exchange or guest semester you must first apply for a visa at the competent German diplomatic mission. The conditions described above under 1 apply for this.

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\(^8\) See footnote 7 above
7 Right of Residence after Studies for International Graduates of German Universities

7.1 Graduates from EU states

EU-27 citizens, nationals of EEA states and Swiss citizens enjoy freedom of movement for workers and may exercise any occupation without the need for an interview at the Foreigners Registration Department.

Croatian nationals are treated the same as non-EU citizens in law and therefore have 18 months to look for a job commensurate with their university degree and their qualification. During these 18 months they may, according to § 284 Para. 6 SGB III in conjunction with § 16 Para 4 AufenthG, practice unrestrictedly any gainful employment without needing a separate EU work permit for this.

7.2 Graduates from non-EU states

7.2.1 Residence permit for the purpose of seeking work

Following successful conclusion of your studies in Germany your residence permit may be extended by up to 18 months for the purpose of looking for a job commensurate with the degree. To this end you must apply at the local Foreigners Registration Department office for an extension to your residence permit according to § 16 Para. 4 AufenthG. Your studies are regarded as finished as soon as the university has certified the passing of the last examination in writing. It is not a question of when you were exmatriculated or when you receive your credentials. At all costs therefore keep the letter and/or envelope with its postmark with which you received the confirmation from the university that you passed the examination.

During the 18 months available to you according to § 16 Para. 4 AufenthG to look for a job commensurate with your degree, you may carry out unrestrictedly any gainful employment, including any internship or trainee post. You may also work autonomously during your search for a job.

To receive the work permit according to § 16 Para. 4 AufenthG, you must continue to prove that you can provide your means of subsistence yourself. The same conditions apply to the type of proofs as described above under No. 2.2.7.

7.2.2 Internship abroad

During these 18 months you may also complete an internship abroad. However, any stay outside Germany that lasts longer than six months will automatically lead to forfeiture of the residence permit unless a longer period has previously been agreed expressly and in writing with the Foreigners Registration Department. It is therefore recommended no matter what that you present yourself with the internship contract at your local Foreigners Registration Department office and reach the necessary agreements.

7.2.3 Change in doctorate or master study course

Both during and directly following the 18 months of the job search you may begin a doctorate or master study course. To this end you must again apply for a residence permit for the purpose of study. The same rules as described under Nos. 2 to 4 apply. If you do not finish the masters or doctorate you are not entitled to any remaining
months of the “old” 18 months for the job search. If you gain a new degree, you may again apply for a residence permit according to § 16 Para. 4 AufenthG for 18 months to look for a job.

7.2.4 Job search after first job abroad

If you go abroad for a job directly after your studies you cannot subsequently apply for a residence permit according to § 16 Para. 4 AufenthG. This option is only available directly following the end of your studies.

If you subsequently wish to look for a job in Germany, you can however apply at the competent German diplomatic mission for a visa according to § 18c AufenthG for the purpose of seeking employment which can be issued to you for six months. In contrast to the residence permit according to § 16 Para. 4 AufenthG, however, you may not take temporary work with a visa according to § 18c AufenthG, but must prove that you have sufficient funds to ensure your means of subsistence in Germany for the period of your job search.

8 Taking up Work: The First “Proper” Post

8.1 EU-27 citizens

EU-27 citizens, nationals of EEA states and Swiss citizens enjoy freedom of movement for workers and may exercise any autonomous or non-autonomous gainful employment without the need for an interview at the Foreigners Registration Department.

8.2 Croatians

Once you have been admitted to the labour market in Germany for at least one year, i.e. no later (cf. No. 3.2.3) than one year after successfully concluding your studies, you will be entitled to working rights according to § 12a of the Work Permit Ordinance. The working rights give you free access to the German labour market. You must apply for the working rights at the ZAV yourself.

You may in any case work autonomously because of freedom of establishment.

8.3 Non-EU citizens

8.3.1 Residence titles for the purpose of employment

For a concrete offer of employment commensurate with your degree you may receive one of the following residence titles for the employment as a graduate of a German university:

- An EU Blue Card according to § 19a AufenthG if you receive a salary of (currently) at least 47,600 euros per year or in so-called shortage occupations (see the appendix on this) a salary of (currently) at least 37,128 euros per year
- A residence permit for the purpose of research according to § 20 AufenthG if you have concluded a so-called affiliation agreement with a recognised research institution
- A residence permit for the purpose of employment according to § 18 AufenthG if you have found any other activity commensurate with your university degree
8. Taking up Work

- A residence permit for the purpose of employment according to § 18a AufenthG if you have completed your studies in the status of exceptional leave to remain according to § 60a Abs 4 AufenthG and have found an appropriate activity.

You must apply for the residence permit or EU Blue Card at the Foreigners Registration Department office competent for your place of residence. In Hamburg these are the Hamburg Welcome Center or the Foreigners Registration Department office at your local district authority.

You should bring:
- Passport and biometric photograph
- Graduation certificate from your university or corresponding provisional certification
- Job description
- A draft employment contract with job description and details of employment conditions (e.g. working times, salary, holidays)
- Form "Angaben zum Betrieb und zur Beschäftigung", to be filled in by employer (download here: www.welcome.hamburg.de/contentblob/2217304/data/vordruck-angaben-betrieb-und-beschaeftigung.pdf)

Since you may already work unrestrictedly with your residence permit according to § 16 Abs 4 AufenthG, you may immediately take up your post, even on probation, without needing to wait for the decision of the Foreigners Registration Department. Your employment contract should take into account that it becomes fully valid only with the final approval of the Foreigners Registration Department.

Once you and in particular your employer have submitted all documents in full, the Foreigners Registration Department will quickly check whether your job offer is commensurate with your university degree (so-called appropriateness test), meaning whether the required qualification and the future activity correspond to the university degree (e.g. a biologist cannot carry out specialist translations if the job advertisement does not expressly require a university degree as well as knowledge of biology / natural sciences). Information on the payment regarded as appropriate for the various professions can be found at http://berufenet.arbeitsagentur.de. You will receive a work permit only for an activity which corresponds to your university degree. Earlier training or activities (such as interpreter during the study course) usually remain unconsidered. The appropriateness test also examines the curriculum vitae. An enquiry to the ZAV, as previously required, is no longer normally made, since the granting of a residence title for the purpose of employment to graduates of a German university no longer requires the approval of the ZAV.

If the examination by the Foreigners Registration Department shows that the job offer is appropriate to your university degree, the Foreigners Registration Department can make a prompt decision, although issue of an electronic residence title still requires additional time (see above No. Fehler! Verweisquelle konnte nicht gefunden werden.)

8.3.1.1 Trainee posts

You may apply for a residence permit according to § 18 AufenthG for a trainee post as well, as long as the content of the training programme, the working conditions and the financial parameters are commensurate with your final degree.
8. Taking up Work

8.3.1.2 Part-time posts

Here too it is true that a residence permit according to § 18 AufenthG may be issued if the post is commensurate with the final degree and you can ensure your subsistence with your income. The lower limit for means of subsistence is the current standard rate of unemployment benefit (Arbeitslosengeld II) according to the second volume of the Social Security Code (SGB II) plus the actual costs of your accommodation (rent and ancillary costs).

8.3.1.3 Further education (traineeship, medical specialist training, etc.)

If practical training is a necessary part of your training without which you cannot complete your training (e.g. second state examination), it counts as an approval-free occupation. You will receive a residence permit for further education according to § 17 AufenthG. Waiting periods of several months between your first state examination and the beginning of the traineeship are usual and can be bridged in terms of residence rights. Contact your Foreigners Registration Department office with the application or the statement on the waiting period. With waiting periods of more than one year you should take up a bridging occupation, e.g. as teacher at a private (language) school.

For further training as a medical specialist you first need the required licence which you must apply for from the state examination office for the health sector and may then receive a residence permit for further education according to § 17 AufenthG.

Following successful conclusion of your further education you may according to § 17 Para. 3 AufenthG receive a new residence permit for a year for the purpose of employment seeking. For the subsequent change to a residence permit for the purpose of gainful employment, the conditions under 8.3.1 and 8.3.2 apply.

8.3.1.4 Contract work (e.g. with temporary employment firms)

No residence permit is issued for an occupation as a contract worker.

8.3.1.5 Change of jobs

A residence permit for the purpose of employment is initially always issued for a specific occupation. If you therefore wish to change your job you must be interviewed by the Hamburg Welcome Center or by the Foreigners Registration Department office at your local district authority. For this you will again need the documents listed under 6.3.1.

8.3.2 Residence permit for an autonomous or freelance activity

As a university graduate you may also make yourself autonomous.

For an entrepreneurial activity you can apply at the Hamburg Welcome Center or the Foreigners Registration Department office of your local district authority for a residence permit according to § 21 Para. 2a AufenthG for the purpose of autonomous activity, if this activity is recognised as being related to the skills acquired in connection with your university studies.

For an autonomous activity such as lawyer or tax consultant you can also apply at the Hamburg Welcome Center or the Foreigners Registration Department office of your local district authority for a residence permit according to § 21 Para. 5 AufenthG for

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10 See [www.arbeitsagentur.de/mn_549712/Navigation/zentral/Buerger/Arbeitslos/Grundsicherung/Grundsicherung-Nav.html](http://www.arbeitsagentur.de/mn_549712/Navigation/zentral/Buerger/Arbeitslos/Grundsicherung/Grundsicherung-Nav.html)

11 See [www.hamburg.de/landespruefungsamt/kontakt/116004/kontakt-lpa.html](http://www.hamburg.de/landespruefungsamt/kontakt/116004/kontakt-lpa.html)
the purpose of freelance activity. If you need special permits for your freelance activity (e.g. an accreditation from the bar association), please obtain these beforehand or ask for an appropriate statement.

If you wish to work as a freelance artist, you can get information on the special conditions at http://www.hamburg.de/contentblob/2807058/data/freischaffende-kuenstler.pdf.

In both cases, whether you want to work as an entrepreneur or freelancer, your activities must promise at least as much income as you need to independently ensure your means of subsistence (standard rate of unemployment benefit, Arbeitslosengeld II, according to SGB II plus the actual costs of your accommodation (see 8.3.1.2 above on this) as well as health and care insurance).

Autonomous and freelance workers are legally obliged in Germany to take out sufficient health and care insurance whose scope of benefits corresponds roughly to that of the statutory health insurance in Germany. Before concluding such insurance you should seek advice from an independent body such as the student union (see 10.3 below). Freelance artists may insure themselves with the Künstlersozialkasse (KSK).12

8.4 Family members

Your family members may have unrestricted gainful employment (i.e. autonomous and non-autonomous as an employee) if they enjoy freedom of movement themselves or if they have a residence title for the purpose of subsequent immigration of dependents according to §§ 27 to 36 AufenthG. If your family members have any other residence permit, their respective right to gainful employment results from the documents issued by the Foreigners Registration Department (residence title, residence title for specific purposes or exceptional leave to remain).
9 A View to the Future – Permanent Residence in Germany

9.1 EU-28 citizens

If you have been living in Germany for five years and in doing so fulfilled a condition for free movement of persons according to § 2 FreizügG/EU (free movement of persons act / EU), i.e. have studied and worked here for example, you can apply for a permanent residence permit to be issued at the Hamburg Welcome Center or the Foreigners Registration Department office of your local district authority.

9.2 Non-EU citizens

Graduates of German universities are entitled to be issued with a settlement permit according to § 18b AufenthG if they:

- carry out gainful employment appropriate to the degree,
- have possessed a residence permit for two years according to §§ 18, 18a, 19a or § 21 AufenthG (if they have left the country for more than 6 months in the meantime, the time before that is not credited) and
- have made contributions to a statutory or private pension scheme for 24 months.

Possessors of an EU Blue Card are entitled to be issued with a settlement permit according to § 19a Para. 6 AufenthG:

- after working for 21 months as a highly qualified person, as long as they have knowledge of German at B1 level, with a German-speaking final degree simultaneously counting as proof of these language skills,
- otherwise (without appropriate language skills, for instance as the graduate of an English-speaking master study course) after 33 months working as a highly qualified person,
- as long as they have also made contributions to a statutory or private pension scheme in those 21 or 33 months.

For a settlement permit you and (if appropriate) your family must also have sufficient living space and there must be no security concerns against your permanent residence.

After five years of residence in Germany you may also apply for an EC permanent residence permit according to § 9a AufenthG. This counts as a settlement permit in Germany and otherwise allows you to move on to another EU member state (with the exception of Great Britain, Ireland and Denmark) and work there. One of the pre-conditions is that you have a residence permit for another purpose than that of education and further education (i.e. not according to §§ 16 or 17 AufenthG), although the period of residence can be credited to the five-year period by up to half.

You must apply for the settlement permit as well as the EC permanent residence permit at the Hamburg Welcome Center or the Foreigners Registration Department office of your local district authority.

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9.3 Naturalisation

As a graduate of a German university you can apply for naturalisation after living in Germany for six years, on grounds of the special effort of integration this involves. In Hamburg the residence during studies is credited in full. You may however no longer have a residence permit according to § 16 AufenthG, since this student residence title excludes naturalisation. You can find information on naturalisation here, among other places: http://einbuergerung.hamburg.de/.
10 Useful Links and Addresses

10.1 Authorities in Hamburg
Central Foreigners Registration Department
This office checks the entry procedures (visas) sent by the German diplomatic missions.
Einwohner-Zentralamt
Sachgebiet für Einreiseangelegenheiten
Amsinckstraße 28, 20097 Hamburg
Tel.: +49 (40) 428 39 2233
Fax: +49 (40) 4279 39 610
Internet: www.hamburg.de/innenbehoerde/visumverfahren
E-mail: Service.Visa-Stelle@eza.hamburg.de

Hamburg Welcome Center
You can make the initial application for your residence permit (and the initial registration of your place of residence) by arranging an appointment at the Hamburg Welcome Center. Appointments can also be arranged via the internet.
Alter Wall 11, 20457 Hamburg
Tel: +49 (40) 428 28 0
Fax: +49 (40) 427 90 16 62
Internet: www.welcome.hamburg.de
Email: info@welcome-center.hamburg.de

Hamburg City Agency Finder
The address and opening times of the Foreigners Registration Department office in a local district authority can be found with the aid of the agency finder on the internet. Enter “Aufenthaltsgenehmigungen, Studenten” as a search parameter, and then the street where you live.
www.hamburg.de/behoerdenfinder

Hamburg Service Telephone
This gives you information on the services of the Hamburg authorities and other public institutions.
Tel: +49 (40) 428 28 0

Hamburg Employment Agency
The internal approval procedure for work permits for nationals from non-EU states now takes place mainly at the ZAV, and only the checking of the working conditions at Hamburg employers is still done through Hamburg.
Kurt-Schumacher-Allee 16, D - 20097 Hamburg
Tel: +49 (01801) 55 51 11 (Employees) *
Tel: + 49 (01801) 66 44 66 (Employers) *
* Landline price 3.9 ct/min; mobile phone prices no higher than 42 ct/min
Internet: www.arbeitsagentur.de (>Partner vor Ort>Hamburg>Hamburg>Agentur>)
Email: Hamburg@arbeitsagentur.de
10. Useful Links and Addresses

**Naturalisation Agency**
Einwohner-Zentralamt
Einbürgerungsabteilung
Amsinckstraße 34, 20097 Hamburg
Tel.: 040 42828-0
Fax: 040 42839-3544
Internet: [www.hamburg.de/eza/einbuergerung](http://www.hamburg.de/eza/einbuergerung)
Email: StaatsangehundEinbuerg@eza.hamburg.de

**10.2 Other agencies**

**ZAV - International Placement Service**
The labour market approval procedure is carried out in six teams within the ZAV, located at Bonn, Duisburg, Frankfurt/Main and Munich. These teams have been making the internal approval decisions on employment of non-EU graduates since 1 May 2011. They are also responsible for the EU work permit procedure for Croatian nationals.
Team 325 (für Hamburg)
Dahlmannstraße 23, 47169 Duisburg
Tel.: +49 (0228) 713 20 00
Fax: +49 (0203) 97 279 238
Internet: [www.arbeitsagentur.de](http://www.arbeitsagentur.de) > Über uns > Weitere Dienststellen > Zentrale Auslands- und Fachvermittlung > Arbeitsmarktzulassung (or type “ZAV” into a search engine)
Email: ZAV-Duisburg.AE-Team325@arbeitsagentur.de

**BAMF – Federal Office for Migration and Refugees**
The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees offers comprehensive information on the subject of migration to Germany at [www.bamf.de](http://www.bamf.de) and has various responsibilities in this area. This also includes the recognition of research institutions according to the EU research directive.
[www.bamf.de/DE/DasBAMF/Aufgaben/Forschungseinrichtungen/forschungseinrichtungen-node.html](http://www.bamf.de/DE/DasBAMF/Aufgaben/Forschungseinrichtungen/forschungseinrichtungen-node.html)

**10.3 Advice on campus**

**Hamburg Student Union**
The Besi-Beratungszentrum Soziales & Internationales (advice center for social and international matters) offers information and personal consultation on questions around life as a foreign student in Hamburg and supports students and prospective students in solving social, personal and economic problems.
[www.studierendenwerk-hamburg.de](http://www.studierendenwerk-hamburg.de)

**10.4 Temping**

**Stellenwerk (Job Exchange)**
Joint online job exchange of the University of Hamburg, the HAW Hamburg and the TU Hamburg-Harburg. Students and graduates can find jobs, relevant internships, the right offer for their own degree thesis and later their first position.
[www.stellenwerk-hamburg.de](http://www.stellenwerk-hamburg.de)

Information for students on the subjects of temping / tax / social security can be found here:
[www.studentenwerke.de/main/default.asp?id=03311](http://www.studentenwerke.de/main/default.asp?id=03311)
10. Useful Links and Addresses

ConAction
ConAction is a project of the Hamburg student union with the aim of bringing together socially engaged students looking for a job and institutions in the educational and social field. This creates a valuable connection between academia and practice.

www.studierendenwerk-hamburg.de

Deutsche Rentenversicherung (German Pension Plan)
Very useful brochure “Tipps für Studenten: Jobben und Studieren” (PDF)
www.deutsche-rentenversicherung.de >Services -> Broschüren & mehr >Vor der Rente > under “T” for Tipps.

10.5 Information and advice on studies
Every university has an International Office or department for international matters. This is where you will find advisers for international students who will be happy to help you with questions of residence law and others. You will also find other advice centers such as:

• General study advice
• Course guidance
• Examination offices
• AStA (general student committee)
• Internship office where relevant
• Social advice where relevant
• Officers for the disabled

You will find the individual contact information on your university’s internet page.

www.uni-hamburg.de
www.haw-hamburg.de
www.tuhh.de
www.hcu-hamburg.de
www.hfmt-hamburg.de
www.hfbk-hamburg.de

10.6 Entering a profession
Several universities offer their graduates services like these in their careers centers:

• Professional orientation
• Career planning
• Application training
• Broadening of competences

www.uni-hamburg.de/careercenter
www.haw-hamburg.de/careerservice
www.tuhh.de/tuhh/uni/service/alumni-career-center.html
www.hfmt-hamburg.de/service/career-center/
www.hcu-alumni.de/member/index.php

10.7 Autonomy

• Hamburg Chamber of Commerce: www.hk24.de
• Hamburg business start-up programme hep www.hep-online.de/cms
• H.E.I. Hamburger Initiative für Existenzgründungen und Innovationen (initiative for business start-ups and innovations)
  www.hei-hamburg.de
• LAWAETZ foundation www.lawaetz.de
• Hamburg Innovation GmbH www.hamburg-innovation.de
10. Useful Links and Addresses

- TuTech Innovation GmbH [www.tutech.de/#1](http://www.tutech.de/#1)
- Innovationsstiftung Hamburg (innovation foundation) [www.innovationsstiftung.de](http://www.innovationsstiftung.de)
- ENIGMA startup center [www.enigmah.de](http://www.enigmah.de), [www.garagehamburg.de](http://www.garagehamburg.de)
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft türkischer Unternehmer und Existenzgründer (ATU e.V.) (association of Turkish entrepreneurs and new business founders) [www.atu-ev.de/existenzgruendung.html](http://www.atu-ev.de/existenzgruendung.html)
- Unternehmer ohne Grenzen (entrepreneurs without barriers) [www.unternehmer-ohne-grenzen.de](http://www.unternehmer-ohne-grenzen.de)

10.8 Sources of law

- Execution instructions of the Federal Employment Agency on the employment ordinance [www.arbeitsagentur.de/zentraler-Content/A01-Allgemein-Info/A015-Oeffentlichkeitsarbeit/Publikation/pdf/DA-Beschaeftigungsverordnung.pdf](http://www.arbeitsagentur.de/zentraler-Content/A01-Allgemein-Info/A015-Oeffentlichkeitsarbeit/Publikation/pdf/DA-Beschaeftigungsverordnung.pdf)
Appendix: List of Shortage Occupations

List of Shortage Occupations According to § 19a of the Residence Law in Conjunction with § 2 Abs. 2 Employment Ordinance

www.arbeitsagentur.de/zentraler-Content/A01-Allgemein-Info/A015-Offentlichkeitsarbeit/Publikation/pdf/DA-Beschaeftigungsverordnung.pdf, appendix to DA 2.02.201 (more detailed representation of the following list)

21. Natural Scientists, Mathematicians and Engineers
   211. Physicists, chemists, geologists and associated professions
   2111 Physicists and astronomers
   2112 Meteorologists
   2113 Chemists
   2114 Geologists and geophysicists
   212. Mathematicians, actuaries and statisticians
   2120 Mathematicians, actuaries and statisticians
   213. Life scientists
   2131 Biologists, botanists, zoologists and associated professions
   2132 Agricultural, forestry and fisheries scientists and consultants
   2133 Environmental scientists
   214. Engineering scientists (not including electrotechnology, electronics and telecommunication)
   2141 Economics and production engineers
   2142 Civil engineers
   2143 Environmental protection engineers
   2144 Mechanical engineers
   2145 Chemical engineers
   2146 Mining engineers, metallurgists and associated professions
   2149 Engineers not named elsewhere
   215. Engineers in the fields of electrotechnology, electronics and telecommunications technology
   2151 Engineers in the field of electrotechnology
   2152 Engineers in the field of electronics
   2153 Engineers in the field of telecommunications technology
   216. Architects, land use, urban and traffic planners, surveyors and designers
   2161 Architects
   2162 Landscape architects
   2163 Product and textile designers
   2164 Land use, urban and traffic planners
   2165 Cartographers and surveyors
   2166 Graphics and multimedia designers

221. Doctors
   2211 General practitioners
   2212 Medical specialists

25. Academic and Comparable Specialists in Information and Communications Technology
   251. Developers and analysts of software and applications
   2511 Systems analysts
   2512 Software developers
   2513 Web and multimedia developers
   2514 Applications programmers
   2519 Developers and analysts of software and applications not named elsewhere
   252. Academic and comparable specialists in databases and networks
   2521 Database developers and administrators
   2522 System administrators
   2523 Academic and comparable specialists in computer networks
   2529 Academic and comparable specialists in databases and networks not named elsewhere