



Opportunity card Visa (§§ 20a + 20b AufenthG)

Please visit the website "[Make it in Germany](#)" for in-depth information on the "Opportunity Card" for job search. Once you have done the self-check on that website (also found [here](#)), please prepare the following documents for your visa application and book an application appointment: [Book an Appointment - Federal Foreign Office \(diplo.de\)](#)

General Information

- The application can be submitted at the earliest 6 months before the planned entry.
- The standard processing time is approx. 4 weeks, in individual cases even longer.
- Documents that are not issued in German or English must be submitted together with a translation.
- The Consulate General reserves the right to request further documentation.

Checklist

Please submit the documents listed below in according order in original and one copy each.

Originals will be returned after examination.

Copies will not be made by Consulate General staff. Please do not staple the documents.

- Fully completed and signed [visa application form](#) (no copy required)
- [Declaration of genuineness of submitted documents](#) (no copy required)
- Passport, which is valid for at least six months, which was issued in the last ten years and with at least two free pages (copy of photo page and pages with visas, stamps, etc. required)
- Proof of residency in Hong Kong
Hong Kong stay permit and a Hong Kong Identity Card or
Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card (only applicable for non Hong Kong passport holders)
- One recent passport photo according to [biometric specifications](#) (not older than 3 months)
- Proof of sufficient financial means to cover the costs of living for the duration of your stay by one of the following documents:
 - Proof of a "Sperrkonto" (blocked account) in Germany with sufficient funds currently amounting to at least 1.027,-- EUR (which for the standard 12-month stay with an opportunity card totals 12,324 Euro) OR
 - "Verpflichtungserklärung" (formal obligation letter) by a sponsor living in Germany OR
 - Statements of a current bank account etc.
 - Secondary employment contract or a binding job offer detailing the weekly working hours and your monthly wage
- Proof of accommodation in Germany (such as a written invitation by friends or family, hotel booking or similar) – must include the actual complete address with street name, name of town and postal code
- Proof of vocational or academic training (such as bachelor's or master's degree, diploma) and – if applicable – prior work experience in the form of confirmation letters by previous employers
- Proof of private health insurance (so-called incoming travel insurance) stating
 - name of the applicant
 - coverage of at least 30.000 EUR for medical expenses and repatriation



- valid for the entire Schengen area
- valid for the entire period of validity of the opportunity card (longest 12 months)

Visa application fee

75 EUR, in cash in HKD. The exact amount in HKD depends on the exchange rate.

Option 1 (for skilled Workers who can prove full equivalence of their foreign qualification):

- Certificate of vocational training in Germany
OR
- Certificate of degree from a university in Germany
OR
- Certificate of vocational training and recognition of the equivalence of the foreign vocational qualification from the respective agency responsible for recognition. Information on how to obtain the recognition can be found [here](#). General information on the recognition process can be found [here](#)
OR
- Certificate of degree from a university and recognition of equivalence of the foreign university degree (printout from the [anabin database](#) for your university degree)
OR (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 recognizing qualifications, or assurance of permission to exercise a profession (for example, for medical professions: decision of the licensing authority in the federal territory, i.e. assurance of permission to exercise a profession or issuing of medical licence)

Option 2 (for all other applicants):

Mandatory training:

You have either

- Foreign vocational training qualification AS WELL AS
- Certificate (original document + copy) issued by the [Central Office for Foreign Education \(ZAB\)](#) regarding your foreign vocational training qualification (state-recognised qualification, duration at least two years) **OR** Notice of partial recognition / Deficit notice for your vocational qualification (original document + copy)
OR
- Foreign university degree certificate AS WELL AS
- Recognition of (conditional) comparability of the foreign university degree (printout from the [anabin database](#) for your university degree and your university) **OR** Statement of comparability by the [Central Office for Foreign Education \(ZAB\)](#)
OR



- Vocational qualification issued by one of the German Chambers of Commerce Abroad with the relevant confirmation from the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB)

Mandatory language skills:

You have to show proof of either

- Current German skills on a level of A1 through a certificate by Goethe Institute, telc or Austrian Language Diploma (ÖSD)
- AND/OR**
- Current English skills on a level of B2 through a certificate certified by the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE); alternatively, the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is also accepted.

Note: The documents listed above are also relevant for calculating your points for the opportunity card! You can be awarded points for knowledge of German and English at certain levels as well as for partial recognition of your foreign vocational qualification. You need at least 6 points to be granted the opportunity card. Details on the number of points awarded are available at [Make it in Germany](#).

Points are also obtained by proving the following:

- Proof of your professional experience in the last 5 or 7 years insofar as this is connected to your vocational qualification: employment references, confirmation of employment from your employer, Curriculum vitae in German or English etc.
- If you have been legally resident in Germany for an uninterrupted period of at least 6 months in the last 5 years (short stays under the Schengen Agreement do not count!), please prove this by providing suitable documents, for example,
 - valid rental contracts
 - terms of employment, service contracts, etc.
 - passports with visas and entry stamps
- Does your spouse/registered partner also want to apply for an opportunity card – or have they already done so – to then enter Germany together with you? If yes, one of you can collect 1 additional point for the opportunity card. Please enclose proof of the opportunity card application submitted by your spouse/partner.

Please be informed about the following:

If you already are **45 years of age or older** or you will turn 45 while in Germany to seek a job: If you are successful in finding employment, but do not meet the criteria for a Blue Card EU, you will either have to show an annual income of at least 49.830,-- EUR or you have to show adequate provision for your retirement in order to obtain a residence and work permit.

Kindly note that the Opportunity Card does allow working in Germany with certain limits:

You are permitted to work for an average of a total maximum of 20 hours per week. If you already have a work contract at the time of your visa application, this can count towards your proof of sufficient financial means. If that is the case for you, please hand in work contract, "Erklärung zum Beschäftigungsverhältnis". You are also permitted to participate in a try-out-period of no more than two weeks. This trial work would have to be in line with your qualification or be aimed towards starting a vocational training or must be connected to a training measure according to your partial recognition of your training.

You are not allowed other types of employment. Your visa will however be changed to a residence permit for employment and work permit once you have found adequate employment in Germany.