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Anmeldung — Registration in Germany Step by Step

How to register your residence in Germany within 2 weeks of arrival. Documents, deadlines, and office addresses.

Deutsche Begriffe: Anmeldung | Meldebescheinigung | Bürgeramt | Einwohnermeldeamt | Wohnungsgeberbescheinigung

Anmeldung — Registration in Germany

What is Anmeldung?

Anmeldung (pronounced: an-mel-dung) is the mandatory registration of your place of residence in Germany. Without this document, you cannot:

- Open a bank account
- Sign an employment contract
- Apply for Kindergeld (child benefit)
- Register a car
- Obtain a tax number (Steuer-ID)

⚠ **IMPORTANT: You have only 14 days!**

You must register **within 14 days** of moving into your residence. If you fail to do so, you face a fine of up to €1,000.

Step by Step

1. Find your Bürgeramt

Bürgeramt (citizen's office) is where you register. Each city has several. Find the nearest one:

- Hamburg: hamburg.de/buergeramt
- Berlin: berlin.de/buergeramt
- München: muenchen.de/buergeramt

2. Book an appointment online

In large cities, you **MUST** have an appointment. Without one, you may wait for hours or be turned away.

3. Prepare your documents

Document	Where to get it
Passport or ID card	You have it with you
Wohnungsgeberbescheinigung	Signed by your landlord
Anmeldung form	Available at the office or download online

Wohnungsgeberbescheinigung — this is confirmation from the owner/landlord that you live at that address. Your landlord **MUST** provide it (it's your right!).

4. Go to the office

- Bring all documents
- Arrive 10 minutes early
- The official will enter your data into the system
- You will receive **Meldebescheinigung** (registration confirmation)

5. Keep your Meldebescheinigung!

You will need this document for:

- Opening a bank account
- Applying for Kindergeld
- Car registration

- Many other official matters

Cost

Anmeldung is FREE in most cities.

After Anmeldung

Within 2-3 weeks you will receive by mail:

- **Steuer-ID** (tax number) — 11 digits, needed for work
- Information from the tax office (Finanzamt)

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I register without a rental contract? Yes, a Wohnungsgeberbescheinigung is sufficient. You can live with friends.

Do children also need to be registered? Yes, every person living at the address must be registered.

I'm moving to another city. What should I do? You need to do Anmeldung in the new city (and will automatically be deregistered from the old one).