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## Opportunity Card — Come to Germany Without a Job Offer

New residence permit since 2024: Come to Germany without a job offer. Points system with min. 6 points.

**Deutsche Begriffe:** Chancenkarte | Aufenthaltstitel | Engpassberuf | Sperrkonto | Verpflichtungserklärung

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## Opportunity Card (Chancenkarte) — Come to Germany Without a Job Offer

> The Opportunity Card (Chancenkarte) is a new residence permit available since June 2024. It allows skilled workers from non-EU countries to enter Germany **without a job offer** and search for work on the ground.

### Two Paths to the Opportunity Card

#### Path 1: Fully Recognized Qualification

If your vocational or university qualification is **fully recognized** in Germany:

- **No points needed** — the card is issued directly
- **No language proof** required
- Also applies to qualifications obtained in Germany

#### Path 2: Points System (minimum 6 points)

If your qualification is **not or only partially recognized**, you must achieve at least **6 points**:

Criterion	Points
<b>Partial recognition</b> of qualification	4
<b>Shortage occupation</b>	1
<b>Work experience</b> 2+ years (last 5 yrs)	2
<b>Work experience</b> 5+ years (last 7 yrs)	3
<b>German A2</b>	1
<b>German B1</b>	2
<b>German B2+</b>	3
<b>English C1+</b>	1
<b>Age under 35</b>	2
<b>Age 35-40</b>	1
<b>Previous stay in Germany</b> (6+ months, last 5 yrs)	1
<b>Partner meets Chancenkarte requirements</b>	1

**Basic requirement for Path 2:** Completed vocational or university training (min. 2 years) + German A1 OR English B2.

## What Does the Opportunity Card Allow?

- **Validity:** 1 year (extendable to 2 years if qualified employment found)
- **Part-time work:** Up to **20 hours/week** allowed
- **Trial work:** Up to **2 weeks per employer**
- **Job changes:** Unlimited — you can test different employers

## Financial Requirements

- **Living expenses:** Proof of at least **€1,091/month** net (2026)
- **Proof via:** Blocked bank account (Sperrkonto) OR declaration of commitment from a sponsor in Germany
- **Visa fee:** €75

## How to Apply

- 1. Check qualification:** Is your degree recognized in Germany? Check at [anabin.kmk.org](https://anabin.kmk.org)
- 2. Calculate points:** Use our Chancenkarte Calculator
- 3. Gather documents:** Qualification certificates, language certificates, financial proof
- 4. Apply online:** Via [digital.diplo.de/chancenkarte](https://digital.diplo.de/chancenkarte)
- 5. Embassy appointment:** Apply for visa (processing time: 4-12 weeks)
- 6. Enter Germany:** After receiving the visa

## Shortage Occupations — 1 Extra Point

Germany currently has **183 officially classified shortage occupations** (2026). Most sought-after:

- **IT & Technology:** Software developers, system administrators, data scientists
- **Engineering:** Electrical, mechanical, civil engineering
- **Healthcare:** Doctors, nurses, physiotherapists
- **Trades:** Electricians, plumbers, welders, mechatronics
- **Transport:** Truck drivers, train operators

Official list: Federal Employment Agency

## Opportunity Card vs. EU Blue Card

	Opportunity Card	EU Blue Card
<b>Job offer needed?</b>	No	Yes
<b>Minimum salary</b>	None	€50,700 / €45,934 (shortage)
<b>Work permit</b>	20h/week + trial work	Full-time
<b>Validity</b>	1 year	4 years
<b>For whom?</b>	Job-seeking professionals	Professionals with job offer

## Important Notes

- The Opportunity Card is **NOT a work visa** — you may only work part-time while searching
- Once you find qualified employment, you switch to a regular residence permit

- **Family reunification** is generally **not possible** with the Opportunity Card
- The card **cannot be extended** if no qualified employment is found

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