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Niederlassungserlaubnis — Permanent Residence Permit in Germany

Niederlassungserlaubnis is an unlimited residence permit in Germany requiring 5 years of residence, employment, and German language skills B1. Faster pathways exist for Blue Card holders and university graduates.

Deutsche Begriffe: Niederlassungserlaubnis | unbefristete Aufenthaltserlaubnis | Daueraufenthalt-EU | Rentenversicherung | Integrationskurs | Erwerbstätigkeit

Niederlassungserlaubnis — Permanent Residence

Niederlassungserlaubnis is an **unlimited** residence permit — you don't need to renew it and it grants unrestricted work authorization. Legal basis: §9 and §18c Aufenthaltsgesetz.

Standard Requirements (§9 AufenthG)

- 1. 5 years** holding an Aufenthaltserlaubnis
- 2. Employment** — permanent job or self-employment
- 3. 60 months** of contributions to statutory pension insurance (Rentenversicherung)
- 4. German language B1 level**
- 5. Basic knowledge of German legal and social order** (Einbürgerungstest or Integrationskurs)
- 6. Sufficient income** — without Bürgergeld benefits
- 7. Housing** large enough for your family
- 8. No serious criminal record**

Faster Pathways

Skilled Workers — Fachkräfte (§18c para. 1)

- **3 years** residence + **36 months** pension contributions + adequate language level
- Shortened to **2 years** (24 months contributions) if you completed German vocational training or studies
- Applies from 1.03.2024 (previously 4 years / 48 months)

Blaue Karte EU holders (§18c para. 2)

- **21 months** + German **B1**, OR
- **27 months** + German **A1**

How to Apply?

1. Where: Ausländerbehörde in your city

2. When: at least 2-3 months before your current Aufenthaltserlaubnis expires

Documents:

- Passport + valid Aufenthaltserlaubnis
- Proof of registration (Anmeldung)
- Biometric photo
- Employment contract + pay stubs
- Rentenversicherung statement (contribution history)
- B1 certificate (or higher)
- Einbürgerungstest or Integrationskurs certificate
- Rental agreement (proof of living space)

How Much Does It Cost?

- **€113-147** (Fachkräfte and graduates — often lower rate)

What Does Niederlassungserlaubnis Provide?

- Unlimited residence without renewal
- Work and self-employment without restrictions
- Access to social benefits
- Easier path to citizenship
- Family reunification

Difference: Niederlassungserlaubnis vs. Daueraufenthalt-EU

	Niederlassungserlaubnis	Daueraufenthalt-EU
Coverage	Germany only	Entire EU
Stay abroad	Max 6 months	Longer periods possible
Relocation to another EU country	New permit required	Simplified

Important!

- Do not leave Germany for **more than 6 months** — you risk losing your permit
- You can lose it for serious crimes
- Keep all documents (decision, pay stubs, contribution history)