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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

Niederlassungserlaubnis — Permanent Residence

What is it?

Niederlassungserlaubnis is an **unlimited** residence permit — you don't need to renew it.

Standard Requirements

- 1. 5 years with Aufenthaltserlaubnis**
- 2. Employment** — permanent employment or self-employment
- 3. 60 months of pension contributions**
- 4. German language B1**
- 5. Basic knowledge of Germany** (Einbürgerungstest or Integrationskurs)
- 6. Sufficient income** — no Bürgergeld
- 7. Housing** — large enough for your family
- 8. No criminal record**

Faster Pathways

Blue Card (Blaue Karte EU):

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

German University Graduates:

- **2 years** of work in your field

Highly Qualified:

- **Immediately** with very high income

How to Apply?

1. Where: Ausländerbehörde in your city

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

Documents:

- Passport + current Aufenthaltserlaubnis
- Anmeldung
- Biometric photo
- Employment contract + payslips
- Pension insurance statement (Rentenversicherung)
- B1 certificate (or higher)
- Einbürgerungstest or Integrationskurs certificate
- Rental agreement (apartment size)

Cost?

- **113-147€**

What does Niederlassungserlaubnis give you?

- Unlimited residence
- Unrestricted work
- Self-employment
- Access to social benefits
- Easier path to citizenship
- Family reunification

Difference vs. Daueraufenthalt-EU

	Niederlassungserlaubnis	Daueraufenthalt-EU
Validity	Germany only	Entire EU
Stay abroad	Max 6 months	Max 6 months
Transfer to another EU country	New permit required	Simplified

Important!

- Don't leave Germany for >6 months (permit loss!)
- You can lose it for serious crimes
- Keep all documents safe

Editorial hamboorg.city · As of: April 2026 · Carefully prepared, regularly updated.
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