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Residence and employment of foreign nationals and companies in Germany

The frequent changes and new legislation on the law concerning foreign nationals have resulted in changes to the rights of foreign nationals regarding living and working in Germany. This leaflet is intended to provide you with an initial overview of the key issues relating to foreign nationals not only in connection to taking up a trade or profession, but also to self-employed activity as well as the granting of a residence title.

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1. Freedom of trade

The economic system in the Federal Republic of Germany is characterised by the overall extremely liberal Trade Regulations (Gewerbeordnung, GewO) prevailing. The basic principle applicable in commercial law is the freedom to pursue a trade or business. According to Article 1 section 1 GewO, the operation of a commercial activity is open to anybody, unless exceptions or restrictions are prescribed or approved by law. As a matter of principle, the largely free access to trade and professions applies irrespectively of whether the person taking up (or intending to perform) this activity is a natural or legal person, or possesses German or foreign nationality. However, restrictions do apply from the law concerning foreign nationals.

2. Citizens of the European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA)

Every EU citizen possesses the right to take up and perform employment under the same conditions as a German national.

Accordingly, nationals of EU member states as well as nationals of the EEA (EU member states as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and their spouses are - as a matter of principle - treated on equal terms as German nationals (irrespective of their own nationality) in the pursuance of self-employed or employed work. The same applies to EU citizens who wish to reside in Germany for the purpose of looking for employment or vocational training.

Citizens and companies from all EU member states enjoy the **unrestricted freedom of establishment, freedom to provide services and freedom of movement for workers**. This also includes every EU citizen being able to enter Germany without a particular residence title on an unrestricted basis. The only requirement is to be in possession of a valid personal identity card/passport, and register at the municipal office (Bürgeramt) should your stay last longer than three months.

You must follow the obligations pertaining to commercial laws applicable in Germany before starting your business.

More information is available in our leaflet "Companies and Employees from EU countries" under the Document No. 15063 at www.ihk-berlin.de. It is unfortunately only available in German.

3. Citizens from third countries

3.1 General questions on residence status

The key provisions on residency in Germany are available in the "[Law on Residence, Employment and Integration of Foreign Nationals in the Federal Republic \(Residence Act - AufenthG\)](#)" as well as [Immigration Law \(ZuwandG\)](#).

The regulations apply to citizens of third countries, i.e. all countries that are not members of the EU.

3.1.1 Residence title requirements

The provisions on foreign nationals entering and residing in Germany are available in the AufenthG legislation. In this process, a foreign national is defined as a non-German in the sense intended by [Article 116](#) of the Basic Constitution. If citizens from third countries (non-EU) wish to enter or reside in Germany, then they correspondingly always require a residence title. This shall usually be obtained before entry in the form of a visa.

3.1.2 Visa-free entries for short stays

Residence titles for short visits on the part of foreign nationals, say, for tourist, cultural, academic, sporting or other private purposes, which as a general principle exclude employment, are required **on a regular basis**.

There are, however, certain **exceptions** in accordance with the residence regulations ([AufenthV](#)), where a short stay in Germany is also possible without a visa. These include the privileged third countries listed in Article 15 AufenthV in conjunction with Attachment II to Regulation (EC) No. 539/2001 ([EU visas regulations](#)), insofar as the relevant nationality is given, a normal passport is given and the short stay (not exceeding three months) is not intended for the purpose of taking up employment. In this respect, only citizens of the expressly specified countries shall be favoured, the exceptions concerning the prohibition of employment described above also applying here. On the other hand, however, a visa-free short stay for the purpose of preparatory actions intended to form a company is permissible.

3.1.3 The various forms of residence titles

These include:

- the residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis)
- the settlement permit (Niederlassungserlaubnis)
- the permit for permanent EC residence (Erlaubnis zum Daueraufenthalt-EG)
- the visa (Schengen visa or business visa)

The following distinctions exist regarding the above forms of residence titles:

- **Residence permit**

A residence permit represents permission to stay for a limited period. It will only be granted for specific residence purposes. The individual residence purposes are listed numerically in the residence act (AufenthG). These may be of humanitarian, political, family nature or according to international law. The limitation will be decided taking into account the intended purpose of the stay. The residence permit may possibly include the pursuance of employment. The decision on this will be made by the authority granting the permit.

- **the settlement permit**

In contrast to the resident permit the settlement permit is a resident title granting permanent residence. There are no restrictions as regards time or location, and it cannot be subject to any incidental provisions. It therefore gives a permanent right to residence and entitles you to pursue employment in Germany.

There is a series of stringent requirements associated with the settlement permit that the applicant must fulfil. They include:

- being in continuous possession of a resident permit for five years,
- possessing a secure livelihood (no dependency on social security (ALG II)/ social assistance),
- having sufficient German language skills,
- having sufficient living space available,
- not having committed any crimes.

- **Permit for permanent EC residence**

As with the settlement permit, the permit for permanent EC residence entitles the holder to permanent residence. [In this case, Article 9 a of the residence act \(AufenthG\)](#) regulates the conditions under which the permit for permanent EC residence shall be granted. The granting requirements correspond essentially to those applicable for the settlement permit. The difference here is that the application for a permit for permanent EC residence enables the applicant to a greater degree of mobility. The permit for permanent EC residence is not only restricted to a freedom of travel under the Schengen Convention, but the holder is also legally entitled to reside in another EU member state on a long-term basis - even for the purpose of pursuing employment.

- **Schengen visa**

The Schengen visa is granted for the purpose of short-term entry to Germany for a period of up to three months, or for passing through Germany.

Within the limits of the period of validity specified in the visa, the holder of a Schengen visa is entitled to stay in countries that are signatory to the Schengen Convention for tourist, sporting, cultural, academic or other private purposes. The Schengen Convention member countries include:

- Belgium
- Denmark
- Germany
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Greece
- Iceland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Austria
- Poland
- Portugal
- Sweden
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Czech Republic
- Hungary

The Schengen visa is valid for six months and entitles the holder to a stay of three months from the date of entry, provided that the granting requirements of the "[Schengen Convention](#)" and corresponding implementing provisions are met.

Exception in the case of Switzerland: Although Switzerland has been a signatory to the Convention since 12th December 2008, allowing Swiss diplomatic missions to grant visas for travelling through Switzerland or for short-term stays of up to three months, Swiss residence titles, allowing foreign nationals a longer-term residence in Switzerland, basically enable entry to Germany without a visa and a stay of up to three months. This does not apply to persons, who have been deported by the German authorities (or the authorities of another Schengen member state) or who have been forcibly repatriated, and are therefore not permitted to re-enter Germany.

If you are not sure whether this case applies to you, please get in touch with the Foreigner's Authority (Ausländerbehörde) before starting your journey.

- **Business visa**

A **business visa** will be granted in all cases, in which the applicant intends to pursue his professional activities in Germany, without transferring his residency to Germany. The business visa entitles the holder to multiple-entries and departures for a maximum stay of 90 days per six-month period - starting from the date of the first entry - and in justified exceptional cases (e.g. for urgent business or professional reasons) be extended in the form of a national visa (Article 11 section 1 a and section 2 of the Schengen Convention).

Such a visa also allows foreign nationals - while retaining their centre of their life abroad - to make new business contacts and start business activities that go beyond the preparatory actions of starting a business in Germany.

Important:

The **temporary permission to stay (Aufenthaltsgestattung)** and the **tolerated stay (Duldung)** are **not residence titles**.

- **Tolerated stay**

The tolerated stay is not a residence title, but is a unilateral declaration of the Foreigner's Authority temporarily abstaining from a deportation.

A tolerated stay means accepting the per se unlawful status of a foreign national. It is particularly granted in such cases, as long as the deportation of a foreign national is not possible due to actual or legal reasons, whereas the concrete risk of torture ([Article 60 section 2 residence act \(AufenthG\)](#)) or the risk of the death penalty (Article 60 section 3 Residence Act (AufenthG)) would represent absolute restrictions to a deportation. Furthermore, a tolerated stay may also be granted for urgent humanitarian reasons, reasons under international law or other similar reasons (Article 60a section 1 residence act (AufenthG)).

A tolerated stay is restricted to the area of the Federal State concerned and may be accompanied by further conditions and obligations. Holders of tolerated stays remain obligated to leave the territory of the Federal Republic. In the event of leaving Germany, they are not entitled to re-enter the country.

- **Temporary permission to stay**

The temporary permission to stay is also not a residence title. The temporary permission to stay is regulated in the asylum procedure law ([AsylVfG](#)) and may be accompanied by obligations. For example, the foreign national may not pursue employment for the duration of time he is required to live in a reception centre. In addition, the obligations prohibit the pursuance of self-employment and employment as an employee in general. However, it is possible for an asylum seeker, who has stayed within the Federal Republic with permission for one year, to be allowed to pursue employment, provided that the Federal Employment Office (Bundesagentur für Arbeit) gives its approval, or the employment is of an approval-free nature in accordance with Articles 1-16 of the Employment Regulations.

As a general rule:

The question of the type of residence title required in each case shall be answered by the purpose of the stay.

If you are unsure which type of residence title to apply for, please contact your local Foreigner's Authority or the relevant German Embassy abroad.

3.1.4 Where and when to apply for the residence title

The granting of a residence title shall ensue exclusively on the application by the foreign national. In this regard, note the date of application and differing circumstances.

- **Date of application**

In general, you should obtain the residence title **before entry**. The same requirements apply as for the granting of the relevant residence title in Germany.

Exceptions from this principle pertain to nationals of Australia, Israel, Japan, Canada, South Korea, New Zealand and the United States who may also obtain the residence title required for a stay exceeding a short stay **following their entry to Germany** (Article 41 section 1 residence regulation (AufenthV)). The same applies to nationals of Andorra, Honduras, Monaco and San Marino when intending to pursue professional activities - with the exception of activities not qualified as employment in the sense of the residence regulation (Article 41 section 2 (AufenthV)) - **so-called privileged countries**.

- **Where to apply for the residence title**

Foreign nationals are normally obligated to obtain their residence titles before entering Germany. Therefore, as a matter of principle, the diplomatic missions (i.e. the **German Embassy or the German Consulate-General of the country of residence of the foreigner**) are empowered by the Foreign Office and the competent authorities for all passport and visa matters abroad (so-called entry cases) (Article 71 section 2 residence act (AufenthG)). In this regard, the local competence depends on the normal place of residence of the foreign national, i.e., a Russian living (not just staying for a while) in Vienna has to contact the German diplomatic representation in Vienna and not, say, the German Embassy in Moscow. If the foreigner plans to stay in Germany for more than 3 months or he/she wants to work in Germany, then the approval of the locally responsible Foreigner's Authority is necessary (Article 31 section 1 residence regulation (AufenthV)). This embassy is respon-

sible for obtaining the approval. The respective visa, however, will be granted by the German diplomatic mission.

Exception: Only in the case of foreign nationals from a country (or having their normal residence in a country), with which Germany does not have diplomatic relations, may apply for the residence title with the Foreigner's Authority responsible at the headquarters of the Foreign Office - i.e. in Berlin (Article 38 residence regulation (AufenthV)).

The **Foreigner's Authority in Berlin** is principally responsible for all foreign nationals, who are (lawfully) residing in Berlin or come from a privileged country (Article 71 section 1 residence act (AufenthG)). If a foreign national resides in Berlin and decides to apply for an extension and/or change (for the better) of his residence title - including the cancellation or partial lifting of burdensome incidental provisions, then he/she can apply directly to the Foreigner's Authority.

3.2 Requirements for self-employment in Germany

Foreign nationals, who have their place of residence in Germany or intend to transfer their residence here and (intend to) pursue a self-employed activity, usually require a corresponding residence title, which either expressly allows this activity (residence permit) or encompasses its pursuance of its own accord (settlement permit).

3.2.1 What are "self-employed activities"

Self-employed activities include all activities performed by an entrepreneur in his own name, for his own account and at his own risk. This also comprises activities going beyond a self-employed activity, such as activities and functions in a company, which shall be perceived as comparable to a self-employed activity due to the representative power invested with them or the de facto or economic impact.

According to this definition, **self-employed activities include:**

- commercial activities such as wholesale and retail trade, import and export, real estate business, gastronomy
- freelance activities, i.e. as an artist (painter, musician, writer) or journalist, engineer, architect
- primary production operations such as agriculture and forestry
- self-employed commercial agents, commissioned by another entrepreneur to conclude or negotiate contracts for the said entrepreneur – at their own time, pace and in their own way.
- in a limited partnership (Kommanditgesellschaft - KG) as the general partner of the KG
- in a general partnership (offene Handelsgesellschaft - OHG) as each individual partner
- in a partnership under civil law (Gesellschaft bürgerlichen Rechtes - GbR or BGB-Gesellschaft) as each individual partner, since partnerships cannot be considered as persons conducting a trade
- in a limited company (GmbH) as each partner (even without activity as managing director) holding a majority equity stake and thereby able to exercise a decisive influence on the company
- managing directors of limited companies (GmbH) as long as they are holding a majority equity stake and thereby are able to exercise a decisive influence on the company

- executive board members of joint stock companies (Aktiengesellschaft - AG) as they are the authorised bodies of a legal person
- foreign nationals, who are prohibited from taking up a self-employment activity or comparable non-self-employment activity, and yet participate severally - only as minority shareholders - in a limited company. This also applies if they appoint a German managing director, because together they hold the majority share and hence economically control the company and are able to issue instructions.
- non-self-employed travelling salesmen

On the other hand, not self-employed activities include:

- the simple capital stake in companies, whether as a "silent partner" or limited partner of a KG
- minority shareholder of a limited company

3.2.2 Legal requirements for foreign nationals to take up a "self-employed activity"

In order to be able to pursue a self-employed activity, the entrepreneur/ foreign founder of a start-up company must apply for a **residence title in accordance with Article 21 residence act** at the relevant German Embassy or the Foreigner's Authority (see above).

Foreign nationals intending to enter Germany for the purpose of working "self-employed", must apply for a corresponding residence title at the relevant German diplomatic mission before entering the country. From there the applications are forwarded via the Foreign Office to the Foreigner's Authority locally responsible, with a request for approval (Article 31 section 1 no. 2 residence regulation (AufenthV)).

If a foreign national, who as the result of an obligation is subject to a ban on self-employed or employed activities, is already lawfully residing (by means of a limited residence permit) in Germany, and he/she intends to take up a "self-employed" activity or wants to expand or change the approved activity, then the application must be submitted directly to the Foreigner's Authority.

The following elements of Article 21 residence act (AufenthG) are relevant for the pursuance of a self-employed activity:

The requirements of Article 21 section 1 residence act (AufenthG) are met, if:

- there exists an **economic interest** or **regional need** in the business (idea),
- the activity is expected to **benefit the Berlin economy**, and
- the implementation is **financially secured** by equity capital or credit approval.

In addition, foreign nationals over 45 years in age must provide evidence of a suitable pension scheme.

- **Article 21 section 5 residence act (AufenthG)** for foreign nationals intending to undertake **freelance self-employment**

- **Article 21 section 4 residence act (AufenthG)** for foreign nationals applying for a **settlement permit**

3.2.3 Residence title procedures in accordance with Article 21 section 1 residence act (AufenthG) (business activities)

For a residence title allowing the pursuance of a self-employed business activity, the following documents (in completed form) must initially be presented to the **Foreigner's Authority**:

- Business plan
- Capital requirements
- Liquidity concept
- Profit and loss account
- Certificate of health insurance cover
- Curriculum vitae of entrepreneur/ managing director

Based on the administrative regulations, the Aliens' Registration Office will on a regular basis request the opinions of (particularly) the local economic and trade bodies and/or the chambers of industry and commerce. In exceptional cases, other specialised authorities will become involved, such as building authorities for architects or health authorities for medical professionals. These bodies with their special technical knowledge will check - amongst other things - whether an economic interest or regional need concerning the intended activity exists, and whether positive benefits for the economy are expected as a result of this activity. In the process, the following criteria can be applied:

- **"Economic interest or regional need"**

An economic interest is given, if, for example, considerable investments and/or the creation or securing of a significant number of jobs, or the sustainable improvement in the sales or market opportunities of residing companies is recognisable, or the establishment of a production plant for qualified technical (sustainable) or particularly environmental friendly products is planned. The list of examples of the old Article 21 section 2 residence act, according to which a "higher economic interest" generally existed if a minimum of 250.000 Euro was invested and five jobs were created, was abolished from August 1st 2012.

It is possible that even the intensification of competition in a particular market segment, in which hitherto only a few companies were active, can justify the positive evaluation of a project and approve the economic interest.

On the other hand, the acceptance of "economic interest" would generally be declined in the case of pure retail trade companies or service providers on account of their overall lesser economic significance for the region. Especially here, however, the "regional need" (to be examined as an alternative criteria) offers possibilities for reasons of supply or other local level political reasons to be included in the decision-making process.

The question of supply (too little/too much) of the region with particular goods or services is the essential evaluation criteria.

- **"Positive effects on the economy"**

Indications that give rise to fears of a lack of positive effects on the economy, can particularly lie within the applicant himself, i.e. he lacks the reliability required for the pursuance of a certain business (e.g. due to relevant criminal, fiscal, social security misconduct in the past) or he lacks the professional requirements (e. g. master certificate examination in a skilled trade or expert knowledge examination in road haulage is missing).

Important:

In making their decision on granting the residence title, the Foreigner's Authority is not bound by the opinion provided from an economic perspective. As far as the Foreigner's Authority is concerned, these opinions are only of an internal nature. As a general principle, their results - even if positive - are not communicated or made accessible to applicants, in order not to anticipate the decision made by the Foreigner's Authority, which is the sole appointed decision-making body.

3.3 Requirements for non-self-employed business activity in Germany

Foreign nationals intending to pursue non-self-employed business activity (i.e. as an employee) in Germany, require only a residence title allowing employment. They do not, however, need to separately apply for a work permit. Although the Federal Employment Office still decides on access to the labour market, this procedure will be conducted internally.

Exception: Foreign nationals with a German spouse as well as foreign nationals with the remark "occupation permitted" stamped in their passport may work in Germany without separately applying for a work permit.

3.3.1 Application

The application for permission to take up a non-self-employed activity (work permit) must be made **with the Foreigner's Authority**. Together with the completed application form, you should always submit a meaningful recruitment pledge or employment contract as well as a job description completed by the employer. The "Application for permission to take up employment" and "Job description" forms are directly available on our website [doc.-nr. 106108](#). The possibility of employment will then be evaluated in an internal procedure involving the Foreigner's Authority and the Federal Office of Employment.

3.3.2 Work permission requirements

The legal requirements for granting a work permit or a corresponding visa are basically to be found in accordance with Article 39 residence act (AufenthG) in conjunction with the [Work Permit Regulation](#) as well as the [Employment Regulation](#). A work permit is generally granted if the following conditions are met (Article 38 residence act (AufenthG)):

- the employment of foreign nationals will not cause negative effects on the labour market,
- preferred employees (German, EU citizens, EEA citizens) are not available,
- foreign workers are not employed under less favourable working conditions than comparable German workers.

Would-be immigrant workers (and employers) can find out from the Employment Office's ["Migration-Check"](#), whether it is possible in their case to obtain a work permit.

3.3.3 Work permission requirement exceptions

In accordance with [Article 9 Work Permit Regulation](#), the following activities (amongst others) do not require work permission:

- executive employee issued with general power of attorney or procuration,
- executive employee of an internationally active company (restricted to 5 years),
- international traffic drivers,
- personnel posted for installation and maintenance work or repairs (up to 3 months),
- students and school pupils for temporary activities (up to 3 months).

3.4 When is there no business activity?

Every self-employed and non-self-employed activity (employment) is considered as business activity (Articles 2 section 2 residence act (AufenthG), Art. 7 section 1 Social Security Statute Book (SGB) IV). Individual exhaustively listed purposes do not represent employment in the sense intended by the residence act.

For example, it is not considered as pursuing employment, if the employee of a foreign company is active for a total period not exceeding three months as a member of the driving staff in international passenger or haulage transport, while retaining his usual residency abroad (Article 16 BeschV) in conjunction with Article 13 BeschV), sets up, assembles or services a machine or system supplied by a foreign company (Article 16 BeschV in conjunction with Article 11 BeschV), or, in particular, conducts meetings or negotiations, or concludes contracts, on behalf of the foreign company (Article 16 BeschV in conjunction with Article 6 section 2 BeschV).

The latter alternative therefore also allows typical preparatory actions in regard to founding a commercial or branch office (by concluding rental or purchase contracts as well as employment contracts with German workers), or founding a German company, each stay not exceeding three-months.

3.5 Special case: Activity of foreign legal persons in Germany

Foreign legal persons do not require any special approvals or permissions for their commercial activity in Germany. Insofar as commercial law provisions make specific activities dependent on a permit (as in real estate, loan or investment transactions or for restaurant or hotel enterprises), then foreign legal persons are subject to the same restrictions as German nationals. Occasionally (as in commercial haulage transport operations), reciprocity is additionally required.

Irrespective of whether the German branch is founded for **representative purposes** (as an advert for the foreign company to become known without concluding any businesses), as a **dependent subsidiary** (with no accounting and generally no account management of its own), or as an **independent branch** (with Commercial Register entry in Germany), foreign nationals living here and intending to become active for the German branch of a foreign company as managing director, executive board member, authorised signatory, chief representative (with general power of attorney) or representative, need to meet the specific legal requirements for foreign nationals.

Note that foreign companies (outside the EU) can only be considered as having legal capacity in Germany, if they are also recognised as having legal capacity in accordance with the law applica-

ble in the founding country, and if they provide evidence that they have their headquarters and main centre of business at the country they were founded. The presentation of balance sheets, auditing certificates, rental contracts or telephone bills can serve as evidence, to name just a few possible examples.

4. Attachment

Attachment I: List of countries for visa-free short visits ([Article 1 Section 2 EU visa regulations](#))

Andorra	Japan	Uruguay
Antigua and Barbuda (1)	Canada	Vatican City
Argentina	Croatia	Venezuela
Australian	Malaysia	United States
Bahamas (1)	Mauritius (1)	Cyprus
Barbados (1)	Mexico	
Brazil	Monaco	
Brunei Darussalam	New Zealand	
Chile	Nicaragua	
Costa Rica	Panama	
El Salvador	Paraguay	
Guatemala	San Marino	
Honduras	Seychelles (1)	
Israel	Singapore	
Japan	South Korea	

Special Administrative Regions (SARs) of the Peoples' Republic of China

SAR Hong Kong (2)
SAR Macau (3)

British citizens who are not nationals of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and North Ireland in the sense of community law:

British nationals (overseas)

- Visa exception shall apply from the date of an agreement to be concluded with the European Community on the exemption of visa obligations coming into force.
- The exemption from visa obligation applies exclusively to holders of the "Hong Kong Special Administrative Region" passport.
- The exemption from visa obligation applies exclusively to holders of the "Região Administrativa Especial de Macau" passport.

Attachment II: Institutions and persons to contact

Ausländerbehörde (Foreigner's Authority)

Landesamt für Bürger- und Ordnungsangelegenheiten

(State Office for Citizens' and Regulatory Affairs)

-Ausländerbehörde-

Friedrich-Krause-Ufer 24

D-13353 Berlin Tel. (+49) (0)30/ 90 269-0, Telefax: (+49) (0)30/ 90 269 –462

<http://www.berlin.de/lab0/auslaender/dienstleistungen/>

**Federal Employment Agency (Bundesagentur für Arbeit),
Regional Directorate Berlin-Brandenburg**

Friedrichstr. 34, D-10969 Berlin

Telephone: (+49) 0800 / 4555500, Telefax: (+49) (0)30 / 55 55 99-49 99

<http://www.arbeitsagentur.de>

Senate Administration for Economic Affairs, Technology and Research

(Senatsverwaltung für Wirtschaft, Technologie und Forschung)

Martin-Luther-Str. 105, D-10825 Berlin

Telephone: (+49) (0)30 / 90 13-8251 (catering, itinerant trade)

Telephone: (+49) (0)30 / 90 13-83 77 (trade, import/export, services, crafts and other activities)

Tel.: (+49) (0)30 9013-7415 (central contact and coordination point for companies)

<http://www.berlin.de/sen/wtf/>

The Representative of the Berlin Senate for Integration and Migration

Potsdamer Str. 34, D-10785 Berlin

Telephone: (+49) (0)30 / 90 17-23 51/-23 59

Telefax: (+49) (0)30 / 90 17-23 20

<http://www.berlin.de/lb/intmig/>

Industrie- und Handelskammer zu Berlin (Berlin Chamber of Industry and Commerce)

Fasanenstr. 85, D-10623 Berlin

Telephone: (+49) (0)30 / 3 15 10-0, Telefax: (+49) (0)30 / 3 15 10-109

<http://www.berlin.ihk24.de>

Handwerkskammer Berlin (Berlin Chamber of Crafts)

Blücherstr. 68, D-10961 Berlin

Telephone: (+49) (0)30 / 2 59 03-01, Telefax (+49) (0)30 / 2 59 03-235

<http://www.hwk-berlin.de/>

Auswärtiges Amt (Federal Foreign Office)

11013 Berlin (Werderscher Markt 1, 10117 Berlin)

Telephone: (+49) (0)30 18-17-0 (24 hour service),

(+49) (0)30 18-17-2000 (Mon - Fri from 9 am to 3 pm)

Telefax (+49) (0)30 18-17-3402

<http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/diplo/de/Startseite.html>

Diplomatic Missions of the Federal Republic of Germany abroad (Foreign Office):

http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/AAmt/Auslandsvertretungen/Uebersicht_node.html

Visa for entry to Germany (Foreign Office):

http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/EinreiseUndAufenthalt/Visabestimmungen_node.html

Learning and Working in Germany (Foreign Office):

http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/EinreiseUndAufenthalt/LernenUndArbeiten/ArbeiteninD_node.html

Information Centre for Asylum and Migration:

http://www.bamf.de/EN/DasBAMF/IZAsylMigration/izasylmigration-node.html;jsessionid=A600408CD8873735B36FB661B86BF607.1_cid294

IXPOS – The German Business Portal:

<http://www.ixpos.de/IXPOS/Navigation/EN/your-business-in-germany.html>

Information for Investors (Office of the Representative for Foreign Investment in Germany):

<http://www.invest-in-germany.de/> or <http://www.foreign-direct-investment.de>

Business Location Center (Berlin Partner für Wirtschaft und Technologie):

<http://www.businesslocationcenter.de/en>

Attachment III: Legal sources

- Gesetz über den Aufenthalt, die Erwerbstätigkeit und die Integration von Ausländern im Bundesgebiet (Aufenthaltsgesetz): http://bundesrecht.juris.de/bundesrecht/aufenthg_2004/
- Aufenthaltsverordnung: <http://bundesrecht.juris.de/bundesrecht/aufenthv/>
- Verordnung über die Zulassung von neu einreisenden Ausländern zur Ausübung einer Beschäftigung (Beschäftigungsverordnung): http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/beschv_2013/
- Verordnung über die Arbeitsgenehmigung für ausländische Arbeitnehmer (Arbeitsgenehmigungsverordnung): <http://bundesrecht.juris.de/bundesrecht/argv/>
- Gewerbeordnung: <http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/gewo/>
- Asylverfahrensgesetz: http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/asylvfg_1992/

This leaflet is intended to provide you with initial legal information and thus possesses no claim to completeness.