



**DIE DEUTSCHE SCHULE**  
-THE GERMAN SCHOOL-

**APPRENTICESHIP/  
AUSBILDUNG**

## HOW WILL I BE LOOKED AFTER AS A FOREIGN APPLICANT IN GERMANY?

The organizational and social support of applicants in Germany is our strength: We pick you up from the airport, help in finding a good accommodation, support an active social life and are always personally available with advice and action – even with a hotline during your stay in Germany!



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## HOW LONG IS AN APPRENTICESHIP IN GERMANY?

An apprenticeship in Germany lasts between 3 and 4 years, depending on the profession. If you already have qualifications in the profession it might be shorter. You will learn your profession to 50% within the company by practical work and to 50% in a special vocational school. Lessons will be held in German only – therefore you need German skills on level B1 of the GER. During the training in Germany, you will be employed by a German company with a German contract providing the same rights and obligations as for German nationals.

## WHICH DEGREE DO I ACQUIRE WITH AN APPRENTICESHIP IN GERMANY?

As a rule, a certificate as 'skilled worker' is awarded as degree. This degree offers excellent career opportunities in Germany and worldwide. The skilled worker qualification enables you to apply for a permanent residence permit in Germany, provided that some other requirements are met.

## WHICH IS THE MAXIMUM AGE FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP IN GERMANY?

There is no age limit. In some professions – e.g. nursing care – applicants over 40 years of age are not rare. However, you should note that as a foreigner you will learn at the vocational school together with German students who are usually between 16 and 25 years old.

## WHICH GERMAN LANGUAGE SKILLS DO I NEED FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP IN GERMANY?

You must speak German at least at level B1 at the beginning of the training. However you can apply already when you have a A2 command of German.



## APPRENTICESHIP/ AUSBILDUNG

‘Ausbildung’ is the German term for apprenticeship, a form of a vocational training program. With an ‘Ausbildung’ (full title: ‘Berufsausbildung’) you get a state-controlled degree as a skilled worker providing huge perspectives for living and working in Germany even if you are a citizen of a non-EU-country.

### WHAT IS AUSBILDUNG IN GERMANY?

Apprenticeships (also called “vocational training”) is a formal educational qualification in the area of blue collar professions like sales person, painter, carpenter, nurse, butcher, or car mechanic. After a 3-year training in Germany a degree of a skilled worker is issued. This provides good chances for foreigners from all over the world to get a permanent work position in Germany.

The system of vocational training (in German: “Berufsausbildungen”) in Germany is unique: Within a paid multi-year education program students learn a profession during their apprenticeship according to German standards as well in vocational schools as the companies which employ the trainees.

### CAN FOREIGNERS DO AN AUSBILDUNG IN GERMANY?

Yes, foreigners from all countries are eligible to apply for an Ausbildung (apprenticeship) in Germany. German language requirements are at level B1.

### WHO CAN DO AUSBILDUNG IN GERMANY?

Any foreigner regardless of the age, speaking German on level B1 at least and having finished 9 or 10 years school education. To start an Ausbildung you must get selected by a German company. However there is statistically only one applicant per position.

### DOES AUSBILDUNG GUARANTEE A JOB IN GERMANY?

With a vocational training in Germany, foreign applicants receive a German qualification as a skilled worker. There is a high demand for skilled workers in Germany which most probably will prevail for many upcoming years. Although there is no ‘guarantee’ for a job the chances are tremendously high – most important in the company that was your host during your apprenticeship. Having successfully finished an apprenticeship, skilled workers can continue to work in the German company, obtain further qualifications (e.g. master craftsman, Bachelor professional or Master professional or even can start a study at university), become self-employed or return to their home country to work here with the foreign qualification. With this foreign qualification and existing support of the German government foreigners can set up companies in their home countries with massive advantages.

### HOW DOES AUSBILDUNG WORK IN GERMANY?

Almost all skilled blue collar professions in Germany can only be practiced if the workers have previously successfully completed a vocational training: for example, bricklayers, bakers, merchants, nurses or electricians.

In most countries of the world, there is no comparable qualification to the German vocational training system. The PTU offered in Russia, Ukraine or Belarus, for example, has neither the corresponding contents nor the length and quality of the German training. Important to understand is that the students in the vocational training are employees of a company where they work approximately 50% of their time in order to learn. During the other 50% they receive a training in a vocational school. The company pays all schooling fees for the apprentices. Hence candidates must be employed by a company – only then they can start the training. This is why also international candidates need to apply first and succeed in a selection process. Apprenticeships in Germany are open for applicants from all countries.

### HOW MUCH DO I EARN IN AN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM IN GERMANY

During your training you will receive a monthly payment from your employer to cover your basic living costs in Germany. The monthly remuneration ranges from approximately €600 gross in the first training year to at least €900 gross or more in the third training year. For some apprenticeship positions German employers pay even more than €1,200 per month. The amount of the monthly allowance depends to a large extent on your employer and your curriculum vitae. Employers often offer additional support such as free tickets or financial support for your accommodation. After the apprenticeship you may be enrolled as a skilled worker in Germany to similar conditions as German workers.