



Federal Office
for Migration
and Refugees

Studying and researching in the EU

Mobility rights for third-country
nationals

ENGLISCH



Migration

Increased mobility

Students and researchers from outside the EU (third-country nationals) are entitled to special mobility rights within the EU under certain conditions based on the Directive (EU) 2016/801. These rights make it easier to enter, stay in and move between different EU member states for the purpose of studying and conducting research.

Mobility to Germany

Third-country nationals who are studying or researching within the EU and hold a residence permit issued by another EU member state under the Directive (EU) 2016/801 are entitled to study and conduct research in Germany without a German residence permit.

- **Students** are permitted to conduct part of their studies in Germany for **up to 360 days** as part of a multilateral study program or if they are covered by an agreement between two or more higher education institutions.
- **Researchers** are permitted to conduct research for a **short period of time** (short-term mobility, up to 180 out of 360 days) and for **longer periods** (long-term mobility, 180 up to 360 days) in Germany if they have a corresponding hosting agreement or a contract with a German research institution.

Hotline
Working and Living
in Germany
+49 30 1815 - 1111



Make it in Germany

Notification procedure for students and researchers (short-term mobility)



To make use of mobility rights, the host institution in Germany has to notify the National Contact Point at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees.

For researchers,
before
entering Germany



For students, at least
30 days before
entering Germany

Hosting research institute or university
Submits documents



National Contact Point
Checks documents



Review period
of 30 days

National Contact Point
Issues a certificate

Documents to be submitted with the notification form:

- Copy of the residence permit under the Directive (EU) 2016/801
- Required proofs from the host institution
- Proof of means of subsistence including proof of health insurance
- Copy of passport

Residence permit application procedure for mobile researchers (long-term mobility)



Researchers wishing to use their long-term mobility rights to spend more than 180 days in Germany have to submit an application for a residence permit for mobile researchers. This application can be submitted directly to the immigration office.

At least 30 days
before
entering Germany



At least 30 days before
expiry of the short-term
mobility period in Germany

Researcher
Submits documents



Immigration office
Checks documents



Entitled to conduct
research until decision

Immigration office
Issues temporary residence permit for mobile researchers

Please contact the relevant immigration office for information on the documents to be submitted.



Further information can be found under:
www.bamf.de/mobility

Mobility to another EU member state

Students and researchers with a German residence permit issued after 1 August 2017 are entitled to enter and stay for a limited period in other EU member states that have implemented the Directive (EU) 2016/801 for study and research purposes. The procedures and conditions for doing so are specified by the relevant member state and can therefore vary.

- Students are permitted to spend up to 360 days studying at a university in another EU member state.
- Researchers are permitted to conduct research short-term (up to 180 days) or long-term (for more than 180 days) at a research institute in another EU member state.



Residence permits for students and researchers in accordance with the Directive (EU) 2016/801

As of 1 August 2017, students and researchers receive a German residence permit for the duration of their stay within the EU in accordance with the Directive (EU) 2016/801. The validity period depends on the duration of the research project or study course.

Students



Specific requirements:

- Admission to a recognised university
- Main purpose of stay is to study
- Proof of means of subsistence including proof of health insurance
- Visa from the German diplomatic mission obtained before entering Germany
- Knowledge of the language in which the course of studies is delivered

Permitted activities:

- Studying a full-time study program at a university
- Part-time employment

What happens afterwards?

- Once the study course has been completed, it is possible to extend the residence permit by **up to 18 months** to seek employment.
- On entering employment, a corresponding permit to work in Germany can be provided. Under certain conditions, one may be entitled to a permanent German residence permit within as little as two years of starting to work in Germany.

Researchers



Specific requirements:

- Hosting agreement or contract with a research institute
- Main purpose of stay is to conduct research
- Proof of means of subsistence including proof of health insurance
- Visa from the German diplomatic mission obtained before entering Germany

Permitted activities:

- Working as a researcher and lecturer

What happens afterwards?

- After completing the research activities, it is possible to extend the residence permit by **up to nine months** to seek employment.
- On entering employment, a corresponding permit to work in Germany can be provided.

Legal basis

Please note that the information provided in this leaflet does not claim to be comprehensive and is not legally binding. The exact requirements and respective procedures are detailed in the German Residence Act. In case of doubt, the wording of the law will be decisive:

- Sections 16b, 16c (Further education and mobility)
- Sections 18d, 18e, 18f (Research and mobility)
- Section 18c (Permanent settlement permit for qualified professionals)
- Section 20 (Nr. 3 Job Search)

The Directive (EU) 2016/801 does not address mobility rights for Denmark, the United Kingdom and Ireland.

For more information, please visit
www.bamf.de/migration

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