Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany
Cairo

Last updated: November 2026

OPPORTUNITY CARD

(SECTION 20A + 20B RESIDENCE ACT)

BASIC INFORMATION

1. Use the following checklist to make sure your application and documents are complete. All documents listed here are to be submitted in the requested **form and order**.

2. Please read the following instructions and the list of documents carefully and compile the documents for your application thoroughly.

3. Please sort your documents in the specified order.

4. Applications can be submitted starting **three months before the planned travel date**.

5. Please use the online tool VIDEX for your VISA application.

6. You have to submit your visa application at the TLScontact center. Please book your appointment through https://visas-de.tlscontact.com/en-us/country/eg/vac/egCAI2de. You will need to appear in person to apply and give your biometrics.

7. All documents are to be submitted as **original copy along with an English or German translation** (copy). A translation is not necessary for English degrees.

8. All **Egyptian public documents** must be presented in **translated, certified and legalized** form. Information on the legalization process can be found on our website LINK

9. **Only applications with complete documents can be accepted! If you insist on the acceptance of the application, it can lead to a rejection due to missing documents.**

10. Please check our website www.kairo.diplo.de regularly for further information and updates.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The opportunity card (available since 1 June 2024) is a feature in the German Residence Act allowing eligible people to come to Germany to look for a job. As well as looking for a job, successful applicants can also take part in additional training for the recognition of foreign professional qualifications in Germany.

There are two ways to obtain the opportunity card:

- Third-country nationals who can prove full equivalence of their foreign qualification and are thus considered to be skilled workers can receive an opportunity card without meeting any other special requirements if they provide evidence that they can support themselves.
- All other applicants have to provide proof that they have completed a degree from a foreign university, a - at least - two-year vocational qualification (both of which need to be officially recognized by the country in which they were completed) or a vocational qualification issued by one of the German Chambers of Commerce Abroad. In addition, applicants need to have either basic German (level A1) or intermediate English skills (level B2). If these requirements are met, varying numbers of points can be collected for criteria such as recognition of the qualification in Germany, language skills, professional experience, age and connection to Germany, as well as an eligible civil partner or spouse who is accompanying you. You need at least 6 points to be granted the opportunity card.

The opportunity card is issued for a maximum of one year, provided you can support yourself for this period. During your time looking for a job in Germany, you can complete work trials or engage in secondary employment for a maximum of 20 hours per week.

You can find out more about the opportunity card (including a self-check) as well as general information on living and working in Germany here: 'Make it in Germany'.

In case you have already a concrete job offer please use our leaflet for Work Visa.

Use the following checklist to make sure your application documents are complete. All documents listed here are to be submitted in the requested **form and order**.

BASIC REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

1. PASSPORT (ORIGINAL AND ONE COPY)

- ☐ Passport is not older than ten years, has at least two blank pages left and is not damaged.
- ☐ The passport is valid for three months after the returning date.
- ☐ The passport holder has signed the passport before submitting the application.
- ☐ The passport holder is clearly to be identified with the passport photo.
- ☐ Copies of the data page and page 3

2. APPLICATION FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS

- ☐ Fully completed and personally signed national visa application form (VIDEX) and the accompanying instruction.

3. CURRENT BIOMETRIC PASSPORT PICTURE (TWO PICTURES)

- ☐ The passport photo is not older than six months.
- ☐ The passport photo is taken with a white or light grey background.
- ☐ The passport photo has not been digitally modified

4. PROOF OF ADEQUATE HEALTH INSURANCE COVER

- ☐ The insurance (private health insurance, so-called **incoming** travel insurance) is valid for all Schengen countries for the entire period of validity of the opportunity card
- ☐ The minimum coverage amount is €30,000 or equivalent in US-Dollar
- ☐ There is no limit or exclusion of treatment (Covid19, pregnancy, age restriction etc.)

5. CURRICULUM VITAE

- ☐ Curriculum vitae in tabular form indicating professional experience to date

6. DETAILED COVER LETTER

- ☐ What fields and jobs are you interested?
- ☐ When and where do you want to travel?
- ☐ Which companies will you apply for?

7. PROOF OF FINANCIAL MEANS FOR COSTS OF LIVING

To stay in Germany, each individual applicant must have at their disposal at least 1,091 Euro per month, which for the standard 12-month stay with an opportunity card totals 13,092 Euro. You can prove you have sufficient resources by a so-called blocked account or a guarantor's letter ("Verpflichtungserklärung") by a person residing in Germany.

Blocked account: Please open the blocked account in good time before you apply for a visa. When applying for a visa, only the official confirmation of the opening of the account issued by the bank, including information on the amount paid in and the amount available per month, will be accepted. Confirmation which does not cite these amounts is not sufficient, nor is proof of lodgement or transfer of funds without renewed confirmation from the a.m. bank.

8. PROOF OF FUTURE RESIDENCE

- ☐ This can be a hotel reservation, a rental contract or a private invitation (copy of passport/residence permit of host needed)

9. IF APPLICABLE: PERMISSION TO EXERCISE A PROFESSION

Permission to exercise a profession issued by the authority responsible for recognizing qualifications, or assurance of permission to exercise a profession (for example, for medical professions: decision of the licensing authority in the federal territory, i.e., assurance of permission to exercise a profession or issuing of medical license (original document + copy)

10. PROOF THAT YOU ARE ALREADY SEARCHING FOR A JOB

- ☐ For example, invitations to job interviews, correspondence with possible employers

11. PROOF OF CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

- ☐ Employment certificate of your current employer, letters of reference or other

A) ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR SKILLED WORKERS WITH AN ACADEMIC DEGREE OR VOCATIONAL TRAINING (DIRECT APPLICATION POSSIBLE IF QUALIFICATION RECOGNISED IN GERMANY)

1. PROOF OF QUALIFICATION

- ☐ Legalized university degree (original and 1 copy)
- ☐ Performance record (original and 1 copy)

2. PROOF OF RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN QUALIFICATION

In the case of skilled workers with **vocational training**:

- ☐ **Notification of recognition of foreign vocational training**: Written notification of the agency in Germany responsible for recognition of vocational training (original and 1 copy)

In the case of skilled workers holding a **university degree**:

- ☐ **Printout from the anabin database** on the qualification and on the institution ***or*** *(if the qualification is not assessed as "entspricht" (comparable) or "gleichwertig" (equivalent) and/or the institution is not classified as "H+")*

- ☐ **Statement of Comparability by the** https://www.kmk.org/zab/central-office-for-foreign-education.html (original and 1 copy) ***or*** *(in the case of regulated professions in which permission is required to exercise the profession, for example, doctors, engineers; complete list is available from the Federal Employment Agency or the European Commission):*
- ☐ **Permission to exercise a profession** issued by the authority responsible for recognising qualifications or assurance of permission to exercise a profession (original and 1 copy, for example for medical professions: decision of the licensing authority in the federal territory, i.e., assurance of permission to exercise a profession and/or issuing of medical licence).

  More information on recognition: www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de

3. IF AVAILABLE: PROOF OF GERMAN OR ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS

- ☐ Language certificate by a recognized test center (original with one copy)
- ☐ Certificate needs to be recognized by the "Association of Language Testers in Europe" (ALTE). "Test of English as a Foreign Language" (TOEFL) is also acceptable.

B) ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR WORKERS WITH AN ACADEMIC DEGREE OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING NOT RECOGNISED IN GERMANY (6 CREDITS NEEDED)

1. PROOF OF QUALIFICATION

- ☐ Legalized university degree (original and 1 copy)
- ☐ Performance record (original and 1 copy)

2. PRINT OUT OF „SELF-CHECK"

- ☐ https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/de/visum-aufenthalt/arten/chancenkarte-jobsuche

3. PROOF OF GERMAN OR ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS

- ☐ Recognized German Language Certificate Level A1 and/or English Language Certificate B2 (original + 1 copy)
- ☐ Certificate needs to be recognized by the "Association of Language Testers in Europe" (ALTE). "Test of English as a Foreign Language" (TOEFL) is also acceptable.

4. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

If you have a Foreign vocational training qualification

- ☐ Certificate (original document + copy) issued by the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) regarding your foreign vocational training qualification (state-recognised qualification, duration at least two years)

  OR

- ☐ Notice of partial recognition / Deficit notice for your vocational qualification (original document + copy)

If you hold a foreign **university degree**:

Proof of state recognition of university qualification – either in the form of

- ☐ Recognition of (conditional) comparability of foreign university degree (printout from the anabin database for your university degree and your university) **OR**
- ☐ Statement of comparability by the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) (original document + copy) **OR**
- ☐ Vocational qualification issued by one of the German Chambers of Commerce Abroad with the relevant confirmation from the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB) (original + copy)

5. PROOF OF ADDITIONAL CREDITS

Details about additional credits can be obtained on the following website Make it in Germany

All the documents listed above are also relevant for calculating your credit points for the opportunity card! You can be awarded points for knowledge of German of English at certain levels, as well as for partial recognition of your foreign vocational qualification.

You can also collect credit points for the opportunity card by proving the following:

- ☐ Proof of your professional experience in the last five or seven years insofar as this is connected to your vocational qualification: employment references, confirmation of employment from your employer, etc. (original documents + copy)
- ☐ If you have been legally resident in Germany for an uninterrupted period of at least six months in the last five years (short stays under the Schengen Agreement do not count!), please prove this by providing suitable documents, for example
  - terms of employment, service contracts, etc.
  - passports with visas and entry stamps
  - valid rental contracts
- ☐ Does your spouse/registered partner also want to apply for an opportunity card – or have they already done so – to then enter Germany together with you? If yes, one of you can collect 1 additional point for the opportunity card. Please enclose proof of the opportunity card application submitted by your spouse/partner.

VISA FEES

The visa fee is **75 Euro** and must be paid in local currency.

In addition, there will be a service fee to be paid to TLScontact, the external service provider.

The fee is non-refundable in case of rejection or withdrawal of the application. Please note that in case of no-show or showing up with incomplete documents, the service fee will not be refunded by TLScontact. Cancellation of a booked appointment is possible up to 3 days before your appointment.

All leaflets and forms of the embassy are available free of charge. You do not need to use the services of any agent or office to make your application.

I HAVE TAKEN NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

- ☐ The submission of forged documents as well as incorrect information will necessarily result that the application will be rejected and can lead to an entry prohibition for Germany (and possibly also for the other Schengen states)!
- ☐ The submission of incomplete documents can result to a rejection.
- ☐ With my signature I confirm that I have read this information sheet and understood its terms.
- ☐ With my signature I agree that the diplomatic mission is allowed to contact me via email and phone number as specified.

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Applicant's signature