

## Chance Card

The "Chance Card" serves as a new legal framework under the Law on the Conditions of Stay of Foreigners in Germany in order to provide regulated access to job search in Germany. Along with job search, the chances map also makes it possible to find options for recognizing professional qualifications obtained abroad.

There are two ways to get a chance card:

- third-country nationals who can prove the full equivalence of their qualifications obtained abroad and are therefore considered qualified specialists can obtain a chance card without having to meet additional special conditions, if they can prove that they have sufficient means of subsistence.

- all other applicants must present a higher education diploma obtained abroad, a certificate of completion of at least two years of professional training (respectively officially recognized in the country in which they were obtained) or a professional training certificate issued by the German Chamber of Commerce. In addition, you must have a basic knowledge of German (A1) or English (B2). If these conditions are met, then a certain number of points can be scored for criteria such as recognition of qualifications in Germany, language skills, professional experience, age and connection with Germany, as well as the potential of a spouse or registered partner who also intends to move to Germany. To get a chance card, you must score at least 6 points.

It is strongly recommended to provide a complete set of documents in accordance with the list of requirements below in order to avoid delays in visa processing.

The decision to issue a visa is the responsibility of the (competent) German diplomatic or consular mission in Russia. Please note: The Diplomatic mission has the right to request additional or missing documents, which may increase the time for consideration of your application.

Applicants must have with them the originals of all necessary documents and their copies.

- **[Printed completed visa application form \(original\)](#)**  
One application for the issuance of a national visa filled out in German and signed with his own hand, including explanations in accordance with sections 53, 54 of the Law on Stay in the Territory of the Federal Republic of Germany.
- **Contact form for the Consulate**  
(see the "Forms" section)
- **2 up-to-date biometric passport-format photos taken no earlier than 6 months ago at the time of application submission, on a white background, 45x35 mm in size.**  
Please attach one photo to application (despite the "do not attach" indication on the application) and bring a second photo with you.
- **Passport with 1 copy of the page with personal data.**  
The passport must be signed and contain at least 4 free pages. Must be valid for 6 months after the end date of the requested visa.
- **A general passport with 1 copy of the page with personal data and 1 copy of all pages with the information entered.**  
For citizens who do not own Russian citizenship – a temporary residence permit / residence permit in Russia with 1 copy.
- **A medical insurance policy issued in the EU for the entire period of stay with 1 copy.** Medical insurance can be provided upon receipt of a visa. State health insurance begins to operate after registration at the place of residence in Germany and the beginning of employment according to an employment contract. Upon entry before the start of the employment relationship, it is necessary to purchase private health insurance. We recommend to conclude medical insurance for foreign citizens entering the country (the so-called "Incoming-Versicherung"). Health insurance policies for travelers may exclude insurance coverage in the event of a planned long stay in the country. Only health insurance issued in the European Union countries is accepted for consideration.
- **A self-written, informative motivation letter with 1 copy.** It should be clear in what areas of employment and what jobs in Germany you are interested, where you intend to apply for a resume and where in Germany you intend to stay

(including information about residence and other means of livelihood). In addition, if applicable, you should indicate what measures you plan to take in Germany to recognize your professional qualifications obtained abroad. If the letter is not written in German, you must provide a certified translation into German.

- **A biography** presented in the form of a table, without gaps between time intervals, indicating the full address and contact information with 1 copy. If you write a biography not in German, you must attach a certified translation into German.
- **Proof of livelihood with 1 copy for the entire stay at the rate of 1.027 euros per month (12.324 euros per year):**
  - **Official (!) statement of acceptance of the financing obligation (Verpflichtungserklärung)** in accordance with Section 66-68 of the Law on the Stay of Foreigners in the Territory of the Federal Republic of Germany. The application must be issued no earlier than 6 months ago at the time of submission of documents and it must indicate the purpose of the stay - "chance card" ("Chancenkarte") or "job search" ("Arbeitsplatzsuche") and confirm the solvency of the person taking on this obligation. This document is issued by the foreign affairs offices in Germany, **or**
  - Confirmation of the availability of the corresponding amount **in the bank account, or**
  - Opening a **blocked account**. You must open a blocked account in advance before applying for a visa. When applying for a visa, only the bank's confirmation of opening an account is taken into account, indicating the total amount deposited to the account and the amount that can be used on a monthly basis. Just a confirmation without specifying these amounts is not enough, as is a document confirming the deposit or transfer of the amount to the account without the bank confirming the opening of the account, **or**
  - **Part-time work:** If you have already planned a specific part-time job in Germany, you can confirm this by submitting an employment contract or a legally binding employment offer indicating weekly working hours and monthly salary.

**Note:** As the Russian Federation is currently under EU sanctions, funds in Russian, German and other EU bank accounts cannot be accepted as proof of a reliable source of livelihood in the Federal Republic of Germany. Part-time employment also cannot be accepted as financial evidence in cases of Russian citizens.

- **If you are a qualified professional** in accordance with Section 18 (3) of the Law on the Conditions of Stay of Foreigners in Germany, i.e. You have received professional training in Germany, or you have received higher education in Germany, or you have received professional training recognized in Germany abroad, or you have received a foreign higher education recognized in Germany:
  - Proof of professional qualification (diploma of higher or secondary vocational education), including an insert with a list of academic subjects, with a certified translation into German with 1 copy, **and**
  - For specialists with secondary professional education:
    - Confirmation of the equivalence of a professional qualification to the corresponding secondary vocational education in Germany (notification of recognition by an authorized German institution - Anerkennungsbescheid) with 1 copy **or**
    - If we are talking about regulated professions that require a permit, for example, doctors, engineers (the full list is provided by the Federal Employment Agency and the European Commission) - a professional activity permit issued by the competent authority for recognition or a guarantee of a professional activity permit, for example, for medical professions - the decision of the office on admission to employment. medical activity on the territory of Germany, i.e. the guarantee of a professional activity permit or admission to medical activity with 1 copy,
  - For specialists with higher education:
    - Document on recognition of the equivalence of higher education obtained abroad (extract from [the ANABIN database](#) for your higher education diploma). If your diploma of education does not fall under the category "corresponds/equivalent" ("entsprechend/gleichwertig") and/or if the university does not have an "H+" rating, you should first conduct an assessment of the document of education at the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB - Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen). Such an assessment should also be carried out for those specialties that are equated to the category "conditionally comparable" ("bedingt vergleichbar") **or**
    - If we are talking about regulated professions that require a permit, for example, doctors, engineers (the full list is provided by the Federal Employment Agency and the European Commission) - a professional activity permit issued by the competent authority for recognition or a guarantee of a professional activity permit, for example, for medical professions - the decision of the office on admission to employment. medical activity on the territory of Germany, i.e. the guarantee of a permit to carry out professional activities or admission to carry out medical activities with 1 copy.

- **If you are not a qualified professional** (definition: see above), you must confirm that the following conditions are met:
  - **Proof of language proficiency** with 1 copy: German language level of at least A1 in accordance with the Pan-European Classification of Language Proficiency Assessment can also be confirmed, for example, by recognized certificates (for example, issued by Goethe-Institut e. V., the Austrian Cultural Forum, TestDaF-Institut, DSH, Deutsches Sprachdiplom KMK) **or** Knowledge of English at least B2 level can be confirmed by a sufficient number of points on the results of the IELTS and TOEFL exams or by a certificate issued by an agency that has a certificate of the European Association of Foreign Language Examination Boards (ALTE).
  - Proof of professional qualification (diploma of higher or secondary vocational education), including an insert with a list of academic subjects, with a certified translation into German with 1 copy, **and**
  - For specialists with secondary professional education:
    - Certificate of the Central Department for Foreign Education on your professional qualification obtained abroad (official recognition, duration of the course of professional training for at least two years) with 1 copy **or**
    - Notification of partial recognition/notification of insufficient training for your professional qualification with 1 copy,
  - For specialists with higher education - confirmation of the official recognition of a higher education diploma :
    - By establishing (partial) comparability of a foreign higher education diploma (extract from [the ANABIN database](#) for your higher education diploma and your university) **or**
    - Assessment of the diploma by the Central Office for Foreign Education with 1 copy (if the [ANABIN](#) diploma of education does not fall under the category "entspricht" or "gleichwertig" in the ANABIN database and/or if the university does not have an "H+" rating) **or**
    - Certificate of professional training issued by the German Chamber of Commerce with corresponding confirmation by the Federal Institute of Professional Education with 1 copy.

**Note:** The documents mentioned above are also relevant when calculating points for the chance map! This way you can get points for proficiency in German and English at a certain level, as well as for partial recognition of your professional qualifications obtained abroad.

Additional points for the chance card (for more information about the possible number of points, see the Make it in Germany website) can be obtained by submitting the following documents:

- Proof of your work experience for the last 5 or 7 years, if this work is related to your professional qualification: characteristics, references from your previous place of work, etc. with 1 copy;
- If you have been in Germany legally for at least 6 months without interruption in the last 5 years (a short stay in accordance with the Schengen legislation does not apply here!), please confirm this with relevant documents, such as an outstanding lease agreement, employment relationship documents, service agreements, etc., passport with visa and entry stamps;
- Does your spouse intend to/Your partner/Does your civil partner also apply for a chance card - or does he/ she already have one - and enter Germany with you? If yes, then one of you can get one extra point for the chance card. If applicable, please attach an appropriate confirmation of your spouse's or registered partner's chance card application.

#### **Important information:**

- The chance card is issued for a maximum **of one year**, if the means of subsistence can be provided for this period. On its basis, during your stay in Germany, you can perform a trial job or work part-time for 20 hours a week.
- For more information about the chance map (in particular, the opportunity to conduct a self-test), as well as general information on working and living in Germany, please visit the website «[Make it in Germany](#)».
- Information on the topic of recognition of qualifications can be found on the website [www.anerkennung-indeutschland.de](http://www.anerkennung-indeutschland.de).
- The processing time is usually approximately 8 weeks, and in some cases longer.
- There is no need to book air tickets for the purpose of applying for a visa. Please book your tickets after you receive your visa.
- Additional documents that are not specified in this memo may be requested when applying for a national visa or during the processing of documents.
- All documents written in a non-German language must be provided with a German translation. Translations made by a translator in the Russian Federation must be notarized. Translations made by a sworn translator in Germany do not require notarization.
- Translation of the national and foreign passports, as well as medical insurance, into German **is not** required.

- Documents issued by the Civil Registry Office or the court must have an apostille on them. This rule does not apply to German documents and, as a rule, documents from other EU countries. Please note that the apostille must be placed on the original document (and not on the copy). If there is an apostille, it must also be translated.
- All original documents and their translations must be provided with 1 copy. Notarization of copies of documents **is not** required.
- Pay attention to the completeness of the submitted documents! An incomplete set of documents may lead to a refusal to issue a national visa.

### **Checklist**

This checklist is intended solely for self-monitoring and preparing documents for submission.

Please distribute all the documents attached to your application in the following order.

The set of documents must contain all originals (civil status documents, diplomas, passports, etc.) and copies of all documents in one copy in the following order. These originals will be returned to you as soon as they are verified at the time of submission of documents.

- 1 photo.
- a statement with a photo pasted on it.
- health insurance issued in the EU;
- motivation letter;
- biography;
- financing;
- a document of higher education or proof of professional qualification with a notification of recognition from an authorized German institution;
- if necessary, a permit to conduct professional activities;
- if necessary, proof of language skills;
- if necessary, documents providing additional points for the chance card
- if available, other confirmations.
- civil passport + copy of the page with personal data + copies of the pages with the entered information;
- foreign passport + copy of the page with personal data + if necessary, a copy of the temporary residence permit or residence permit in the Russian Federation.

***This memo is updated if necessary and does not claim to be complete.***