

Working in Germany as a Non-EU Citizen with a German University Degree

Overview of the Most Important Rules and Regulations

Since 2005, citizens of non-EU-countries who have gained a degree from a German university can extend their residence permit by up to one year in order to look for an appropriate position for employment with the degree obtained (Article 16 Section 4 Immigration Act [Aufenthaltsgesetz]). In 2010, a total of 5,676 foreign graduates took up employment in Germany and received a corresponding residence permit.

Please note the following:

- During the "search phase", it is possible to take up employment summing up to 90 full days or 180 half days per year, as well as spare-time student employment.
- Once a job commensurate with the candidate's qualification has been found, the necessity to check whether privileged personnel from the EU are available is no longer relevant.
- If a corresponding job has been pursued for five years, it is possible to receive a permanent residence permit (the so-called settlement permit, Article 9 Immigration Act).
- The rules and regulations listed above apply to graduates of Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral studies at German universities, irrespective of the field of study taken for the degree.

Any questions? Please check the links below for further information:

http://www.daad.de/imperia/md/content/en/deutschland/downloads/info_employment.pdf
http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_aufenthg/index.html
<http://www.bundesrecht.juris.de/beschv/index.html>