

## Work Permit for Your Spouse

If your spouse wishes to work as a regular employee in Germany, he or she will need a work permit from the German government (unless he or she is a citizen of another EU country or of Iceland, Liechtenstein or Norway). Spouses of foreign academic visitors wishing to pursue gainful employment must indicate this prior to arrival so that they can apply for a corresponding residence permit (one with the designation *Erwerbstätigkeit gestattet* 'employment allowed'). The work permit itself must be obtained from the *Arbeitsamt* (employment office) in Kiel. The process is time consuming – just processing the application can take several weeks – and applications are not always successful. Because of this, spouses of past foreign academic guests recommend that you consider well in advance of your arrival how best to use the time you will be spending in Germany. Spouses of visiting researchers can register as guest auditors for courses at the University. The *Volkshochschule (VHS)* – the local adult education center – also offers courses on various topics.

## Child Care (*Kindergarten*)

In Germany, *Kindergarten* is day care for children one to six years of age. You are not required to send your children to Kindergarten in Germany; however, one to six years olds are legally entitled to a place in a Kindergarten.

More information regarding child care can be found on the pages of the [Family Service Office](#) at Kiel University. They also offer a program for children of university employees during the [school holidays](#).

If you are travelling with your children to Germany, please get in touch as soon as possible with the Family Service Office [welcome@gb.uni-kiel.de](mailto:welcome@gb.uni-kiel.de). They can assist you in all matters concerning schools for your child/ren.

## School

The school year begins at the end of summer break in either August or September; the date varies from year to year. All children living in Germany 6 years of age up to and including age 16, regardless of nationality, are required to attend school.

More information regarding types of schools and school registration can be found on the pages of the [Family Service Office](#) at Kiel University.

If you are travelling with your children to Germany, please get in touch as soon as possible with the Family Service Office [welcome@gb.uni-kiel.de](mailto:welcome@gb.uni-kiel.de). They can assist you in locating a school for your school age children.