Working in Germany

For Undergraduate, Graduate Students and Alumni

Alumni & Career
www.community.tum.de/career
email: career@tum.de

Online Application Document Check

Application documents differ from country to country. To ensure your CV matches the requirements of German recruiters, upload them to the online CV-Check and receive feedback from TUM career experts:
www.community.tum.de/en/career/#cv-check

Not a native speaker? No worries, the staff at TUM Schreibberatung (German) and the TUM English Writing Center (English) are here to help with your documents regarding grammar and wording:
www.sprachenzentrum.tum.de/sprachenzentrum/sprachen/deutsch-als-fremdsprache/schreibberatung
www.sprachenzentrum.tum.de/sprachenzentrum/sprachen/englisch/english-writing-center

Got a personal question concerning your career development or application? Take advantage of our individual career counseling sessions. Simply contact us via email at career@tum.de to make an appointment.

Want to stay up to date with our career events and receive tips for your job hunt? Subscribe to our monthly career newsletter for students:
www.community.tum.de/en/career/#career-newsletter

Disclaimer:
This leaflet has been prepared for informative purposes. It provides answers to the most frequently asked questions, as well as an overview of relevant sources. The contents have been researched and compiled carefully and to the best of our knowledge as of May 2022. However, this is not a legally binding text or official legal advice.

Photos: metamorworks – stock.adobe.com, Magdalena Joos
I am an international full-time student at TUM. Am I allowed to work in Germany?

EU citizens (including citizens of Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, UK and Switzerland) have unlimited access to the German labor market. Non-EU students enrolled at a German university holding a residence permit are entitled to work 120 full or 240 half days per calendar year, (freelance work not allowed). The work permit is included in the legal provisions in the residence permit for students. Work as a Hiwi, Wihi may exceed 120 full or 240 half days, however the Munich Foreigners Office should be notified.

Note: Always check what is written in your residence permit and in case of doubt consult directly with the Kreisverwaltungsreferat (KVR).

During my studies at TUM, I want to do an internship in Germany. When do I need a work permit?

Voluntary internships count as work, meaning no work permit is required if you work less than 120 full or 240 half days per year. If jobs and voluntary internships exceed 120 full or 240 half days per year (always on a cumulative basis), you will need to obtain approval from the Bürgerbüro...

What is so special about "minijobs"?

Minijobs are jobs limited to € 450 in earnings per month. Their biggest advantage is that no deductions (taxes, social security) are made from this amount, meaning you get paid the full amount "cash". You can have more than one minijob; however, if you want to avoid any further deductions, your monthly income should not exceed the € 450 limit.

Do I need to pay social and health insurance?

If you earn more than € 450 per month but less than € 1,300, you will have to pay reduced social insurance. Once your income exceeds € 1,300, you will have to pay the full amount. (Students with German Krankenversicherung may ask their health insurance provider for their social insurance number. Students who have travel insurance need to apply for a social security number from the Deutsche Rentenversicherung Bund.) In addition, if you work more than 20 hours per week, you will have to pay health, unemployment and nursing care insurance contributions.

What can I do if I get a job in Germany?

We suggest you start thinking about your career development as early as possible as the process of preparing your documents, submitting the application and getting a job can take several months. On the TUM Job Portal you will find many offers for traineeships, internships, part-time student positions, master's and bachelor’s theses and permanent jobs in Germany and abroad. Also ensure to establish and maintain your own professional network, e.g. through the various TUM Mentoring programs.

FAQ – Labor Law and Taxes

I have just obtained a German degree. Now I want to get a job: What should I do next?

As a graduate of a German university, you can apply for an extension of your residence permit for 18 months in order to find a job related to your degree. During this time, you may take on any job without restrictions to help cover your living costs.

To find out which visa or residence permit you need or are eligible for, visit: www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/vi-sa-residence/quick-check

Please be aware that all stated figures are valid for 2022 only and might vary depending on your tax group (Steuerklasse), which is based on your civil status: single, married, with child etc.

Links

www.arbeitsagentur.de
www.work-in-bavaria.de
www.daad.de/arbeiten

FAQ – How to Find a Job

Do I have to know German to work in Germany?

There is no law regarding German knowledge, but in practice the chances of landing a good job which fits your interests and qualifications will dramatically increase if you have good knowledge (B2 level) of German. Communicating with colleagues and clients will also be easier, therefore German companies consider it one of the most important requirements for potential candidates.

The TUM Language Center offers a wide array of free German courses, training seminars and special programs and will be happy to help you. Check www.tum.de/daf for all offers.

How do I find a job in Germany?

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How does the application process work?

Generally, the process starts with detailed preparation of your application documents (CV, cover letter and references or copies of certificates) and sending them in response to a job ad or by means of an unsolicited application. The second part is being invited to 1-3 rounds of job interviews (telephone, Skype or in person) or an assessment center followed by a job offer.

Will the TUM Career Service help me find work?

We are not a placement service, but we do provide various free of charge services and tools that should enable YOU to find a job. Our detailed Career Guide and numerous webinars & seminars (in German and English) will help you to become familiar with the German job market and application process. You can also have your application documents checked online, speak to a career counselor in person, or get a professional picture taken at our Career Days. Last but not least, while our mentoring program helps students with life and career advice from experienced alumni, being an active member of our TUM Community allows direct contact with students and alumni around the globe.

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