

Your relocation research, organised

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Illustrative example, not a customer assessment. No payment required to view.

Illustrative Germany research plan

Research goal: work abroad | Household: solo | Timing: year

Questions recorded for investigation

Which documents, application stages and costs should I confirm for my situation?

Your planning answers

Current residence: United States (illustrative). Application jurisdiction: not confirmed.

Additional citizenships: not supplied. Target month: not chosen; current stage: exploring.

Priorities: Application effort, Total cost.

Income evidence category: unknown; document preparation: some.

Job search: unknown; qualification recognition: unknown.

Your selected route

Germany: Germany Opportunity Card for qualified job search

The Federal Employment Agency lists EUR 1,091 monthly living funds for 2026, evidenced for example through a blocked account or declaration of commitment. Application charges, insurance and relocation expenses are separate.

Original source check: 2026-10-29; review due 2026-11-05.

You chose these routes. This document organises public evidence and the questions still to resolve. It does not determine eligibility or include individual professional review.

Planning from the United States

Passport or nationality recorded: United States (illustrative). This does not determine eligibility.

Confirm the passport you will use, your lawful US residence and the consular office covering your US address. US residence does not establish US citizenship or visa eligibility.

Confirm the permitted activities for the route, including any work restrictions. Check each household member separately before relying on a residence permission.

Check background-record jurisdictions, document validity windows, apostilles, certified translations and each household member's documents before ordering them.

Ask a qualified adviser about US and destination-country tax filing, foreign-account reporting, healthcare and any applicable relief before committing.

IRS: US citizens and residents abroad

US citizens and resident aliens generally remain subject to US filing rules on worldwide income. Ask a qualified cross-border adviser which filing, reporting and relief rules apply to you.

<https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/us-citizens-and-residents-abroad-filing-requirements>

US State Department: preparing documents for use abroad

Identify which documents need authentication or an apostille and which authority issues it. Confirm the destination authority's current checklist before ordering documents.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/replace-certify-docs/authenticate-your-document.html>

Germany: Germany Opportunity Card for qualified job search

The Opportunity Card supports a qualified job search in Germany for up to one year. Recognised skilled workers and the points route have different qualification and language conditions. It is not a job offer, permanent residence or general freelance permission.

Published financial conditions

The Federal Employment Agency lists EUR 1,091 monthly living funds for 2026, evidenced for example through a blocked account or declaration of commitment. Application charges, insurance and relocation expenses are separate.

These conditions are not a total application or relocation fee quote.

Documents and requirements to check

Check whether you use a recognised-skilled-worker basis or the points route. The latter requires an eligible qualification, the language condition and at least six points. Prepare qualification/recognition evidence, funds and the correct mission's visa checklist. Berlin's published in-country document list covers people already holding an eligible visa/residence status and is not a visa-free entry workaround.

Unresolved questions

Job-search holders can undertake secondary work averaging up to 20 hours per week and qualifying trial work for up to two weeks at a time. Self-employment itself needs the appropriate residence permission. Once a suitable job is found, apply for the matching residence title; a follow-up card is conditional, not an automatic renewal. The German mission for the applicant's lawful residence decides the entry process.

Official evidence and review dates

Internally checked by WhereCanIMove systems. Checked 2026-10-29; review due 2026-11-05. Generating this pack does not renew the check.

German Federal Employment Agency, ZAV

<https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/vor-ort/zav/working-and-living-in-germany/iss-en/issue-02-2026/opportunity-card>

Berlin State Immigration Office

<https://service.berlin.de/dienstleistung/354301/en/>

Full programme record and source locators

<https://wherecanimove.com/programme/germany-chancenkarte-opportunity-card>

Germany: qualified job-search and next-permit preparation

The Opportunity Card supports a qualified job search in Germany for up to one year. Recognised skilled workers and the points route have different qualification and language conditions. It is not a job offer, permanent residence or general freelance permission.

Guide checked 2026-10-29; review due 2026-11-05.

Your document list by person

Primary applicant: Qualification and recognition evidence

Establish the recognised-skilled-worker basis or the points-route qualification. The points route also has language and points conditions. Keep official recognition/evaluation evidence.

German Federal Employment Agency, ZAV - International Services Spotlight Issue 02/2026: Job Search Opportunity Card funds, qualification/language/points; limited work; Follow-up Opportunity Card

Primary applicant: Living funds for the search period

The 2026 benchmark is EUR 1,091 per month. Confirm accepted blocked-account, commitment or other evidence with the deciding authority; this is living funding, not a visa fee or job guarantee.

German Federal Employment Agency, ZAV - International Services Spotlight Issue 02/2026: Job Search Opportunity Card funds, qualification/language/points; limited work; Follow-up Opportunity Card

Primary applicant: Mission-specific entry file

Obtain the current entry-visa checklist from the German mission responsible for your lawful residence. Berlin's online residence application is for people in its stated eligible in-country circumstances.

Berlin State Immigration Office - Opportunity card: procedure; prerequisites; documents; in-country work limits; applicant already in Berlin with qualifying status, not visa-free entry

Primary applicant: Berlin in-country file, only if applicable

Berlin lists passport/current permission, residence/address and housing-cost evidence, livelihood and health cover. Use this only if Berlin is responsible and the stated residence conditions apply.

Berlin State Immigration Office - Opportunity card: procedure; prerequisites; documents; in-country work limits; applicant already in Berlin with qualifying status, not visa-free entry

Before choosing

1. Separate recognised qualification from points route

Start with the qualification and language evidence, not a self-awarded eligibility score. The Federal Employment Agency describes different conditions for recognised skilled workers and the points route.

German Federal Employment Agency, ZAV - International Services Spotlight Issue 02/2026: Job Search Opportunity Card funds, qualification/language/points; limited work; Follow-up Opportunity Card

Application

1. Use the competent mission for entry permission

Confirm the correct application channel and document list for your residence before filing. Berlin explicitly says its in-country card service cannot be used after visa-free entry; do not treat a US passport as a workaround.

Berlin State Immigration Office - Opportunity card: procedure; prerequisites; documents; in-country work limits; applicant already in Berlin with qualifying status, not visa-free entry

Before moving

1. Prepare a qualified job search and funding plan

Research employers and qualification recognition, and fund the whole proposed search. The initial card can last up to a year; it does not provide employment or unlimited work rights.

German Federal Employment Agency, ZAV - International Services Spotlight Issue 02/2026: Job Search Opportunity Card funds, qualification/language/points; limited work; Follow-up Opportunity Card

After arrival

1. Observe the search-card activity limits

Secondary employment is limited to an average of 20 hours weekly; qualifying trial work is limited to two weeks at a time. The search card does not itself authorise self-employment.

German Federal Employment Agency, ZAV - International Services Spotlight Issue 02/2026: Job Search Opportunity Card funds, qualification/language/points; limited work; Follow-up Opportunity Card

Berlin State Immigration Office - Opportunity card: procedure; prerequisites; documents; in-country work limits; applicant already in Berlin with qualifying status, not visa-free entry

Renewals

1. Apply for the appropriate next permission when a job is found

A qualified offer may support a work residence title. The follow-up Opportunity Card is conditional where another work title cannot yet be issued; it is not a routine extension merely because the search continues.

German Federal Employment Agency, ZAV - International Services Spotlight Issue 02/2026: Job Search Opportunity Card funds, qualification/language/points; limited work; Follow-up Opportunity Card

Confirm before acting

The guide is not a job-placement service or an individual points/qualification assessment.

The US-mission entry checklist, application charge and household rights must be confirmed for the actual applicant. Berlin's procedure is explicitly restricted in scope.

Your action checklist

Before choosing

- ☐ Confirm the authority for your current residence before using a consulate-specific checklist.
- ☐ Job search recorded as unknown; qualification recognition is unknown. Confirm whether your actual route needs an offer, recognition, licensing or sponsorship before filing.
- ☐ Cost is a priority: obtain separate government, translation, insurance and professional quotes; keep qualifying income/capital outside the spending subtotal.
- ☐ Separate recognised qualification from points route
- ☐ Confirm the passport you will use, your lawful US residence and the consular office covering your US address. US residence does not establish US citizenship or visa eligibility.
- ☐ Confirm the permitted activities for the route, including any work restrictions. Check each household member separately before relying on a residence permission.
- ☐ Check background-record jurisdictions, document validity windows, apostilles, certified translations and each household member's documents before ordering them.
- ☐ Ask a qualified adviser about US and destination-country tax filing, foreign-account reporting, healthcare and any applicable relief before committing.

Before applying

- ☐ Order only the documents on the selected authority checklist; confirm validity windows before paying for checks.
- ☐ Primary applicant: Qualification and recognition evidence
- ☐ Primary applicant: Living funds for the search period
- ☐ Primary applicant: Mission-specific entry file
- ☐ Primary applicant: Berlin in-country file, only if applicable
- ☐ Confirm which documents and permissions apply to your household.

Application

- ☐ Use the competent mission for entry permission

Before moving

- ☐ Prepare a qualified job search and funding plan
- ☐ Complete your budget worksheet using actual quotes. Unknown costs are not zero.
- ☐ Ask a qualified adviser about tax residence, home-country obligations and healthcare before committing.

After arrival

- ☐ Observe the search-card activity limits

Renewals

- ☐ Apply for the appropriate next permission when a job is found

Your budget worksheet

Your own researched amounts in one currency. Income or capital qualification thresholds are separate from money spent. Unknown items remain unknown; this is not a complete cost estimate.

Application and government fees: Unknown - obtain a quote

Professional advice: Unknown - obtain a quote

Documents and translations: Unknown - obtain a quote

Travel: Unknown - obtain a quote

Moving and shipping: Unknown - obtain a quote

Housing and deposits: Unknown - obtain a quote

Insurance and healthcare: Unknown - obtain a quote

Contingency: Unknown - obtain a quote

Scope, corrections and support

An automated research guide for the route or routes you chose, personalised to your recorded planning answers. No individual professional review or eligibility decision is included.

Official conditions can change. Each route keeps its original source and internal-check dates; generating this pack does not renew them.

Financial conditions are not a total fee quote. Published information and unanswered questions need confirmation before applying.

No application preparation, visa approval, citizenship, tax outcome or agency availability is promised.

Your saved checklist and budget are reflected at download time. The original route snapshot retains its evidence dates. Report a source error at <https://wherecanimove.com/corrections>. For order or refund help: jack@wherecanimove.com.