

Federal Republic of Germany



About Germany

Capital City:

- Berlin

Monetary Unit:

- Euro (€)

Major Languages:

- Germany

Main Exports:

- Machinery
- Vehicles
- Chemicals
- Household Equipment

Our Immigration Services in Germany

Business Travel – Guidance & assistance with Type C Schengen visa applications for visa nationals

Work and Residence Permit applications – For non-EEA citizens, filed through the German diplomatic post abroad and processed by the alien affairs office

Settlement permit applications – For non-EEA citizens who will reside in Germany for at least five years

EEA-Family Permit applications – For non-EEA family members who will accompany EEA-nationals working & residing in Germany

The Economy of Germany

Home to over 82 million people, Germany has Europe's largest economy and the fourth largest economy, by GDP, in the world. Germany has one of the world's strongest economies and offers an innovative research and education landscape which fosters industrial growth, foreign trade, and investment. Germany is currently the second biggest exporter of goods worldwide after China and its share of total world trade is around nine percent. Its most important trading partners are France, the Netherlands, the U.S. and Great Britain.

It is not only the 30 major corporations such as Siemens, Volkswagen, Allianz, SAP and BASF listed on the German share index (DAX) that make the country competitive internationally, but the thousands of small and medium-sized enterprises in manufacturing, in particular mechanical engineering, the supplier industry, as well as nano and biotechnology, which frequently form clusters. Small and medium-sized enterprises employ over 25 million people, making them the biggest employer.

Germany specializes in developing and manufacturing complex industrial goods, primarily capital goods and innovative production technologies. The most important sectors of industry are automotive manufacturing, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and chemicals. With the six automobile manufacturers, Volkswagen, Audi, BMW, Daimler, Porsche (VW) and Opel (General Motors), Germany is one of the world's largest car producers. As the largest employer in industry and the leading export sector, mechanical engineering also has a key position in the German economy. The chemical industry, as a result of takeovers and mergers partially owned by foreign companies, primarily manufactures producer goods.

BASF in Ludwigshafen, Germany is the world's largest chemical company.

Source: <http://tinyurl.com/3zw8frc>

Business Travel to Germany

Germany is a member of the EU and Schengen Agreements. Currently, EU/EEA citizens who wish to travel to Germany for business may do so by presenting a valid travel document. Similarly, nationals of nearly three dozen countries, including Canada and the United States, may enter Germany, visa free, for a period of up to 90 days.

Foreign nationals who are not members of the EU/EEA and are otherwise visa exempt must apply for a Schengen Short Term/Business Visa at a Germany consulate nearest to their residence abroad. Visitors to the Schengen area are limited to a stay of up to 90 days in a given 180-day period, cumulative and including trips to all Schengen member countries. All visitors to Germany should be prepared to provide evidence of sufficient health coverage and financial means to fund their stay.

Business travelers may enter Germany to perform a variety of non-remunerative activities while in Germany, including professional and commercial activities such as consultations, negotiations, business meetings, marketing, and product promotion activities, and conferences. Business activities for compensation are strictly prohibited. Individuals or companies that engage in the employment of a foreign national without proper work authorization may be subject to criminal liability and a ban on work permit sponsorship.

The German Foreign Office maintains a detailed and updated list of entry requirements at their web site at: <http://tinyurl.com/3wg5fmc>

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Living in Germany

The EU's most populous nation, Germany lies in the heart of Europe and is a cosmopolitan, democratic country with a great tradition. It is surrounded by nine neighboring countries and stretches from the North Sea and the Baltic Sea in the north, to the Alps in the south. Some of the largest European rivers, including the Rhine, Danube, and Elbe, flow through Germany.

In addition to its rich educational offerings, Germany has a dynamic cultural scene. It has eleven metropolitan regions, four of which are ranked among Europe's most important, including the Rhine-Ruhr. Popular urban areas with expatriates include Berlin, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Munich, and Stuttgart. Berlin is considered the political center and Munich, the Bavarian capital, as the center of science. Source: <http://www.germany.info>

German Business Culture

In many respects, Germans can be considered the masters of planning. It is a culture that prizes forward thinking and knowing what they will be doing at a specific time on a specific day. Thus, appointments are mandatory and should be made two weeks in advance. Similarly, punctuality and meeting formality is critical. Meetings typically follow an agenda that will be strictly adhered to.

Handshakes are the typical business greeting. Business cards and materials should be printed in German and English. Generally speaking, Germans do not have an open-door policy. People often work with their office door closed.

With headquarters outside of Washington, DC in Reston, Virginia and operations in Pune, India, Goel & Anderson is an immigration firm that is international in scope and personal in nature. We are known as a firm that is highly professional and also highly human. We offer clients extensive experience and a comprehensive understanding of all areas of business, employment, and family-based immigration law worldwide.

For more information about our Global Immigration Practice and services, please contact Jill Marie Bussey at jill.bussey@goellaw.com or +1 703.796.9881.

*Goel & Anderson, LLC does not engage in the practice of law within India. All services in India are provided by our affiliate, G&A Immigration Services Private Limited.

The information contained in this document is intended for informational purposes only, is general in nature, and does not constitute legal guidance.

German Work Permit Process

1 Application for work and residence permit at a German consulate or diplomatic mission abroad
-OR-
Application for change of or "regularization" of status from visitor to work authorized filed directly with the Alien's Office

2 Application processing by the local Alien's Office ("Auslaenderbehoerde") for the place of intending residence & Local Labor Agency, as required

3 Upon approval, visa nationals will be required to apply for Type D Schengen visa at a German consulate abroad for entry to Germany, which is followed by a final request for work and residence permit in-country

How Goel & Anderson can assist your organization in Germany

Organizations that wish to employ foreign workers abroad require an immigration service provider with a record of successfully coordinating and delivering global, business immigration services for multinational organizations. Goel & Anderson practices exclusively in the field of immigration to assist your company with the recruitment, hiring, and retention of foreign workers across the globe, including Germany. We understand that time and resources are valuable to your business and that staffing an international project can be critical to your business' reputation and success. We are committed to efficiently delivering business immigration solutions that combine broad global coverage with a depth of local expertise.

We carefully select co-counsel who share our service and compliance-oriented approach to meet the needs of organizations doing business in the global marketplace. Our Global Immigration Practice group and local counsel work closely together to ensure comprehensive business coordination and seamless delivery of services. Our immigration services include end-to-end processing, including: Work Permit and Visa Application preparation and filing;

detailed guidance on the visa stamping and post-entry process; and tracking key expiration dates. Personal representation at the German embassy or consulate abroad and local authorities may be available.

German work authorization applications will be reviewed by the local labor authorities and may be subject to labor market analysis before the residency application may be processed. Thus, if your company's German office anticipates engaging foreign talent, an early analysis of immigration options and strategies, as well as a thorough understanding of the sponsorship obligations, will better position your project for success. We also understand that despite careful planning, emergent issues can arise. We are well positioned to assist your business to address unexpected business requirements. Because global immigration matters do not occur within a vacuum and the law is infrequently static, we seek local experts who may also assist with a range of related legal services, including corporate formation, contracts, employment agreements, licensing, and transactions and who will advise of changes in policy and procedures.



Innovative Approaches to Immigration Law

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