



Health Insurance

To be able to go to a doctor, you have to register with a health insurance of your choice. It is obligatory by law to be insured. As long as you are unemployed, Job Center or the social assistance office covers the costs for this.



Bank

It is important to open a bank account at a credit institute of your choice. Your account will be used to receive your social benefits as well as your wages.



Integration Course

To learn the German language, you are obliged to participate in an integration course. You can register for a class at different language schools.



School & Childcare

Registration of your children either in a school or in a child care center is an important step. Children from the age of three have the right to go to a child care center. For children from the age of six, there is compulsory education. Registration for school and childcare is not done automatically.



Family Benefits Office

You can apply for a child benefit for your children.



Other

In many places, there are second-hand shops, where you can buy cheap clothes, and food banks, where you can find free food. In some areas, low-cost tickets for transportation are available. You may need to register for each of these. Inform yourself about these opportunities in your new municipality.



Support

For people who are new in Germany, different advice services are available. You could go to an advisory service for adult immigrants (MBE) and ask for help. For young people between the ages of 12 to 27, youth migrant services (JMD) offer advice and support.

Help and support services are normally offered by welfare organizations. These are AWO, Caritas, Deutscher Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband, Diakonie, DRK und Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle der Juden in Deutschland.

You could also ask for help from volunteers. Get in touch with other people and be pro-active!

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Arriving in Germany



First steps for resettled refugees



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What you should do



First steps in Germany

- ☐ I went to the registration office and got a registration card.
- ☐ I went to the local foreigner's office and filed an application form y residence permit.
- ☐ I went to the Job Center or social assistance office and filed an application for social benefits.
- ☐ I went to a credit institute and opened a bank account.
- ☐ I went to a health insurance to register and applied for a health insurance card.
- ☐ I went to a language school and registered for an integration course.
- ☐ I have registered my children in a school or kindergarten.
- ☐ I applied for my child benefit at the family benefits office.

This brochure aims to explain the first steps you will take in your new municipality. You will have to go to many different appointments and file a number of applications. Depending on the municipality, the process differs.



In some cases, all the appointments are already arranged and someone even accompanies you, while in other cases, you have to do all of this on your own. And in some cases, a translator will be there for you and in other cases, there will not be a translator available. It is important to be there on time if you have an appointment.

For some of the appointments, you will receive notifications by mail. Thus, it is important to have your mailbox labeled with your name written as on your official documents.

If you are living in shared accommodation, make sure that you know where to get your letters.



Local Foreigner's Office

You will have to file an application at your local foreigner's office for the electronic residence permit. After that, it normally takes some time until you can collect your residence permit there.

It helps to have a folder for collecting all the relevant documents.

Make sure to take all the documents you received before you came to Germany as well as the ones you received in Germany to these appointments. Many important documents are in the bag from IOM and in the envelope you received in Friedland.

Some documents from one authority are required for appointments at other authorities. Especially during the first weeks in your new municipality, the amount of appointments and administrative tasks might be very challenging. Finding your way without speaking the language can be very difficult sometimes.

But you are not alone! Counseling offices of welfare organisations or volunteers can help you to navigate this. Their services are free of charge, confident and independent.



Registration Office

Every person moving to a municipality or city in Germany has to register at the registration office. You will receive a registration card.



Jobcenter/Social Assistance

You will have to file an application at your local foreigner's office for the electronic residence permit. After that, it normally takes some time until you can collect your residence permit there.