

6 AFTER YOUR STUDIES



FINDING EMPLOYMENT IN GERMANY

Germany belongs to the world's leading economies with one of the lowest levels of unemployment. Although no one can make exact predictions that will hold, according to the German Federal Ministry the employment prospects for immigrants in Germany are excellent, especially if they are university graduates from a German university with knowledge of the German language (the number of job openings is very limited if you don't speak German).

However, if you are considering staying here after finishing your studies, you should start planning your career in Germany before you finish your degree. This information will help you to successfully launch your career.

ADVICE IN SHORT:

- Identify your competencies, values and interests
- Define your professional and personal goals
- Begin a target-oriented search for specific tasks and job roles
- Start looking for a job early on, at the latest four months before you finish studying
- Make use of the University Career Centre and other services offered by the university
- Take advantage of career fairs organised at the university
- Don't restrict your search too much, but have your professional priorities in mind
- By now you should speak German well. If not, take German language courses to improve your German

SERVICES OF THE UNIVERSITY

The Career Service of the university offers all interested students and graduates detailed information on the process of career planning, on job applications, and how to enter into the world of work in general. The Career Service staff will help you to identify your competencies, to define your professional goals and to develop your personal strategy on how to approach the labour market. They can also have a look at your documents, together with you, and give you feedback on your motivation letter and CV. See www.uni-goettingen.de/career for more information.



CONSULTANCY SERVICE

The University of Göttingen offers a consultancy service for start-ups to all students and graduates. The advisory bureau provides initial basic advice as well as a start-up road map encompassing issues ranging from choice of legal form to possible financing for the enterprise. If certain conditions are met (technology-based and/or innovative start-up), the consultancy service can award grants so that the idea can be developed to the point where it can be launched on the market. <http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/1279.html>

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

After concluding your studies in Germany, as a student from a non-EU country you are allowed to remain in Germany for the purpose of looking for employment for a maximum of 18 months after the end of your studies. This is your chance to gain a foothold in the German job market as an international graduate. Your advantage during this period of job hunting is that you are allowed to work as much as you like. Any time restrictions on working during this job-hunting phase have been removed due to the new Right of Residence regulation.

In order to receive a residence permit for this period, you have to demonstrate that you can cover your costs of living for this period.



CONTINUING YOUR STUDIES

In Germany, some 25,000 graduates obtain their doctoral degree every year – far more than in any other European country. As a nation with a long scientific tradition, Germany offers an exceptional infrastructure for research work and welcomes international graduates. Many funding organisations support foreign PhD students. All faculties at the University of Göttingen offer doctoral degrees either as individual doctoral studies or structured PhD pro-

grammes. Göttingen graduate schools provide an outstanding framework for doctoral studies by pursuing an interdisciplinary approach through structured curricula, intensive supervision, mentoring programmes and a range of tailored seminars. Please refer to www.uni-goettingen.de/phd, where you will find all the information you need in order to make the right decision.

JOINING THE GÖTTINGEN ALUMNI NETWORK

The University of Göttingen is committed to your success, even after your graduation. As a former student of the University of Göttingen, you are welcome to join the Göttingen Alumni Network and thus to stay in touch with peers and professors and enhance your career. As a special service, the university offers further scientific education, such as expert seminars and training, which are complimentary for all Göttingen alumni. For further information please visit: www.uni-goettingen.de/alumni



CHECKLIST: FINISHING UNIVERSITY

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- ☐ Visit your faculty or your programme coordinator and make sure that you have fulfilled all the obligations related to your stay, that all the paper work is done, and that you have received all relevant information.
 - ☐ In case you have books you don't need any more, post ads on the black boards at your faculty and/or ZHG.
 - ☐ Make sure all library books have been returned.
 - ☐ Ex-matriculate from the university (removal from the students register).
 - ☐ Register with the university's or faculty's Alumni Office.
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CHECKLIST: LEAVING GERMANY

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- ☐ Cancel all the contracts (health insurance, accommodation, mobile phone, Internet, Bahn Card, etc.).
 - Make sure to check in advance what the cancellation deadlines are for various contracts!
 - In the event of private accommodation, make sure you contact your landlord to terminate your housing contract well in advance. If applicable, arrange for your deposit to be refunded.
 - ☐ Close your bank account.
 - ☐ De-register yourself at the Residents' Registration Office.
 - ☐ Organise a big farewell party 😊
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**Images:**

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All the information contained in this guide has been carefully researched and all reasonable efforts have been made to avoid errors. Please let us know should you have any comments.

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