

Students and Doctoral Students in Germany

Students and doctoral students can become self-employed during their studies or their doctorate, but only as a sideline enterprise. You must submit an application to the immigration office under § 21 para. 6 of the AufenthG (German Residence Act), and the immigration office will decide on the application. The following documents must be submitted to the immigration office:

Form **“Application for a residence permit”**. Below are important **notes** for your application:

- For **“Purpose of stay in the Federal Republic of Germany** (GER: Zweck des Aufenthaltes in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland)” → write **“studies** (GER: Studium)” and **“Application for Act § 21 para. 6 of the AufenthG (German Residence Act) for self-employment as a sideline enterprise with a maximum of 15 hours of work per week** (GER: Antrag auf § 21 Abs. 6 AufenthG für eine Selbständigkeit im Nebenerwerb mit max. 15h/Woche)“.
- Under **“Intended employment** (GER: Beabsichtigte Erwerbstätigkeit)” → **“Self-employed as [please fill in what self-employment you want to pursue]** (GER: Selbständig als [...])“.
- To make it easier for you to understand, we have visualised the respective text parts in the form for you.

A valid passport from your country of origin.

A current biometric photograph.

Proof that there are no grounds for expulsion, preferably by means of a police clearance certificate.

Your complete CV in German. You can download a [template](#) from the page of the European Union.

A German description of your business idea (approx. three to five pages). In it you must make clear that you will work no more than 15 hours per week independently and that you will not neglect your studies.

Only applicable for freelancers: If you already have clients, submit your orders with agreed-upon fees.

Only for specific professions: Proof that you meet the formal requirements. Proof is especially important if your self-employment requires you to have certain qualifications.

We have compiled this list carefully and conscientiously. Due to possible changes or requirements, however, we do not guarantee the completeness and correctness of the information. Please check with your immigration office whether any additional documents are required.

Application for a residence permit

Zweck des Aufenthalts in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland

Purpose of stay in the Federal Republic of Germany /
Objet du séjour en République fédérale d'Allemagne /
Scopo del soggiorno nella Repubblica Federale di Germania

studies and application for § 21 para. 6 of the AufenthG for self-employment as
a sideline enterprise with a maximum of 15 hours of work per week

(z.B. Besuch, Touristenreise, Studium, Arbeits- aufnahme usw.)

(e. g., visit, holiday, study, employment, etc.) /
(p. ex. visite, voyage de tourisme, études, travail, etc.) /
(ad es. visita, viaggio turistico, studio, lavoro ecc.)

Arbeitgeber

Employer / employeur / datore di lavoro

Name der Verwandten, der Studienanstalt, Referenzen usw.

Names of relatives, educational establishment, references, etc.
Nom des parents, de l'établissement d'enseignement, références, etc.
Nome dei parenti, dell'istituto scolastico, referenze ecc.

Deren Anschrift

Their addresses / leur adresse / indirizzo relativo

Beabsichtigte Erwerbstätigkeit

(Angabe des auszuübenden Berufs)

Intended employment (occupation to be exercised)
Activité envisagée (Désignation de la profession exercée)
Impiego previsto (indicare il mestiere da svolgere)

Self-employed as [please fill in what self-employment you want to pursue]

Erlerner Beruf

Trade or profession for which trained / Profession apprise /
Mestiere imparato