



▶ INDIA – GERMANY Migration Support Overview



International Labour Organization



International Centre for Migration Policy Development



Indian Council of World Affairs

This document provides an overview of the India-Germany Migration Corridor as covered in the India-Germany Migration Corridor Analysis Report published in 2025 under the **EU funded EU-India Cooperation and Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (Phase II)** project. Copyright of the original publication applies.

This overview provides essential information about the India-Germany migration corridor, encompassing guidance from pre-migration preparation to post-migration integration support.

▶ Migration pathways for different migrant categories

Visa categories play a crucial role in the migration process, with different options available based on the purpose, such as work, study, or family reunification.

Visa type	Eligibility	Purpose	Duration	Note
Students/apprentices¹				
 Language course visa (Category: C/D visa)	» Enrolled in a recognized language programme	» To take up a language course in Germany	» Varies with course length, but cannot go beyond 12 months	»
 Vocational training visa (Ausbildung visa) (Category: D visa)	» Enrolled in a vocational training programme	» To take up vocational training in Germany	» Varies with course length, depending on the programme	» Opportunity card or work visa can follow directly: https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/visa-residence/types/training

1. <https://www.germany-visa.org/>

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Visa Type	Eligibility	Purpose	Duration	Note
 Student visa (Category: D visa)	» Enrolled in educational institutions for undergraduate (UG), post-graduate (PG) or doctoral studies	» Students who have received university admission	» Matches the duration of the academic programme	» Includes part-time work allowances under certain conditions; international students can extend their residence permit for up to 18 months after graduating to find a job in Germany
 Training/ internship visa (Category: C/D visa)	» Admission for a certified educational/professional/vocational programme	» Attend training programmes or internships	» The length of the training or internship	» Conditions depend on the type of programme; example: https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/fileadmin/1_Rebrush_2022/a_Fachkraefte/PDF-Dateien/3_Visum_u_Aufenthalt/Visagrafik_EN/2024_Visum_Praktikum_EN.pdf
 Visa for the recognition of foreign qualifications (Category: D visa)	» Registration for a qualification measure and recognition notice from the competent German authority	» Completion of the recognition procedure	» The length of the training/qualification measure	» Opportunity card or work visa can follow directly: https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/visa-residence/types/recognition
 Visa for recognition partnership (Category: D visa)	» Recognition partnership contract with the German employer	» Complete the recognition procedure/start working at the same time	» The length of the qualification measure	» Work visa can follow directly: https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/visa-residence/types/visa-recognition-partnership
Skilled professionals²				
 Chancenkarte (Opportunity card) (Category: D visa)	» Skilled workers who meet points-based criteria in addition to requirements such as education, funds, etc.	» Find a job in Germany	» Up to one year	» Long-term residence upon securing employment; cardholders can work part-time or take a trial job for up to two weeks
 Work visa (Category: D visa)	» Individuals with a confirmed job offer in Germany	» To work for a German-based employer	» Duration of contract – up to one year	» Specific requirements depend on the profession. https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/visa-residence/types/work-qualified-professionals

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2. <https://www.germany-visa.org/>

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Visa Type	Eligibility	Purpose	Duration	Note
 EU Blue Card (Category: D visa)	» Individuals with an academic qualification and a confirmed job offer	» To work for a German-based employer	» Duration of your employment contract, plus an additional three months, and is valid for a maximum of four years	» https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/visa-residence/types/eu-blue-card
 Visa for professionally experienced workers Category: D visa)	» Individuals with a foreign qualification, extensive professional experience and a confirmed job offer	» To work for a German-based employer	» Duration of contract – up to one year	» https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/visa-residence/types/visa-professionally-experienced-workers
 Business visa (Category: C visa)	» Visitors from countries requiring a visa for short-term stays, with business documentation	» Attend meetings and conferences, or conduct business activities	» Up to 90 days within 180 days	» Not applicable for long-term stay
Family reunification ³				
 Family reunion visa (Category: D visa)	» Relatives of German citizens or residents with proper documentation	» Join relatives or partners residing in Germany	» Long-term, based on family relationships	» Requires proof of relationship and financial support
Researchers and scientists ⁴				
 Research visa (Category: D visa)	» Researchers with a hosting agreement with the German research facility	» Conduct studies or research	» A minimum of 90 days, depending on the hosting agreement	» https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/visa-residence/types/other/research
 Guest scientist visa (Category: C visa)	» Scientists with official invitations	» Conduct studies or research	» A maximum of 90 days within 180 days	» Limited to research activities

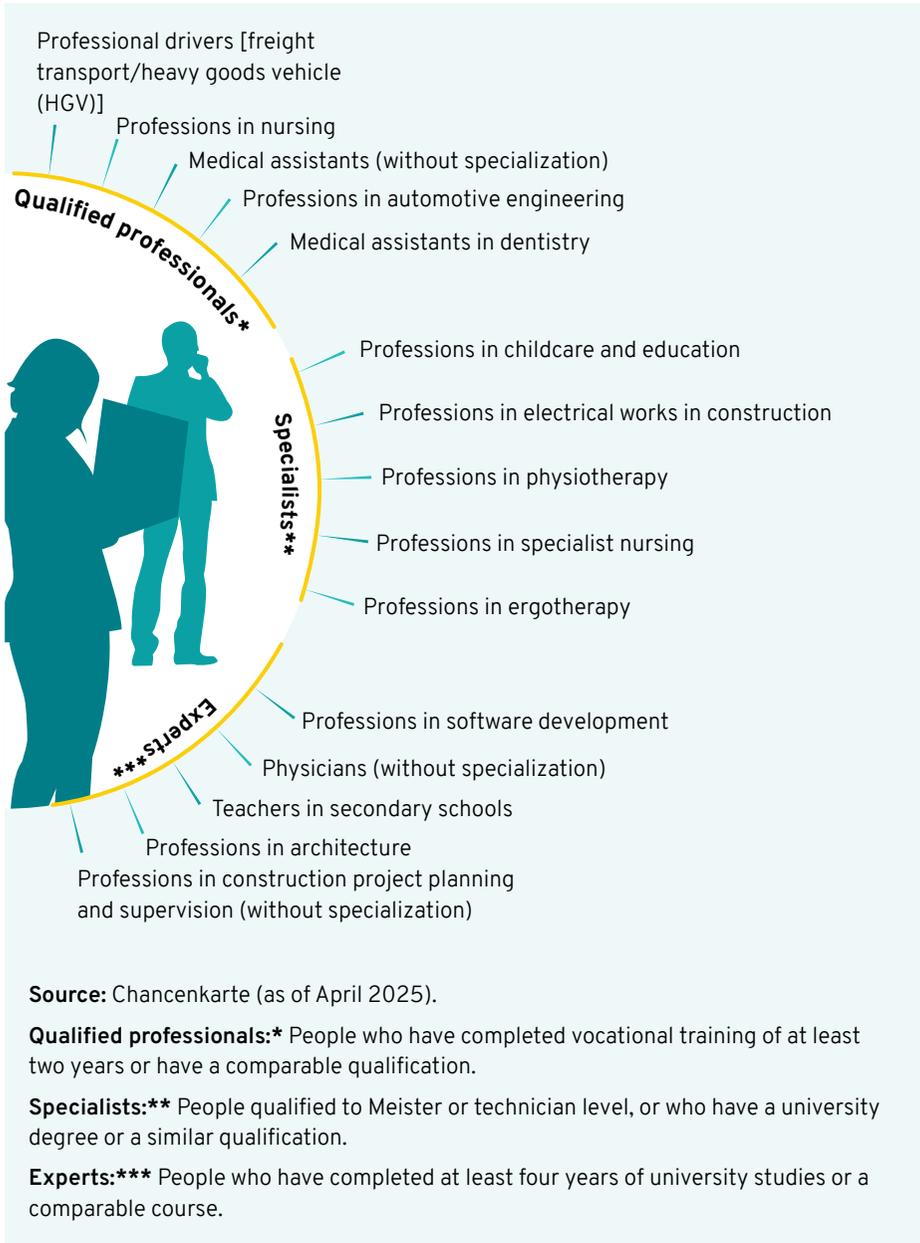
3. <https://www.germany-visa.org/>

4. <https://www.germany-visa.org/>



► Priority sectors

The ‘Make It in Germany’ website has reported the following as in-demand occupations:⁵



5. <https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/living-in-germany/discover-germany/qualified-professionals>

► Sector-specific pathways

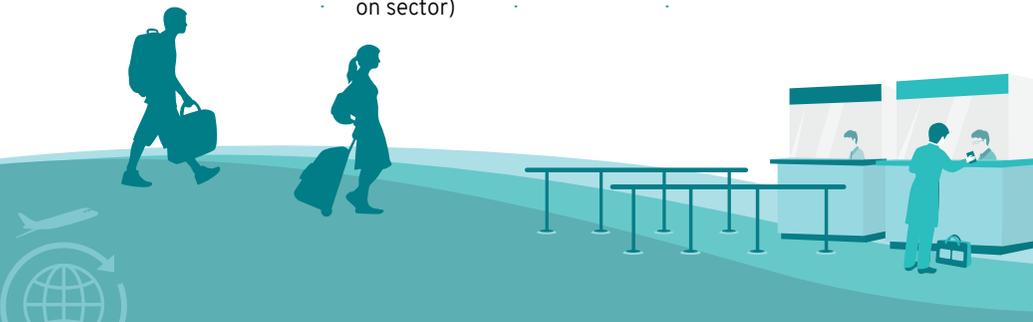
Germany offers multiple sector-specific migration pathways for professionals from healthcare, engineering, IT, research, skilled crafts, and more. Given below is key information on the requirements and conditions for migration in each sector.

Sector	Career options	Key requirements	EU Blue Card	Additional information
Nursing professionals	Registered nurse, nursing assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Qualification recognition ► German language proficiency (B2 level) ► Certificate of medical fitness ► Certificate of good conduct 	Not eligible for the EU Blue Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Pathways include recognition visas or adaptation programmes ► High demand in hospitals and care homes
Physicians	General practitioners, specialists, surgeons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Approbation license ► Qualification recognition ► German language proficiency (B2 general; C1 medical language test) 	Eligible for the EU Blue Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Specialization recognition might be required ► Work at hospitals, clinics, or private practices
Engineers and information technology	Automation engineer, artificial intelligence (AI) specialist, data scientist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Relevant engineering/IT degree ► German language proficiency (B1/B2) ► Qualification recognition (if applicable) 	Eligible for EU Blue Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Opportunity Card available for non-EU nationals ► Positions available in industries like renewable energy, automotive, software development, and IT security ► IT specialists now need only two years of professional experience (relaxed from the earlier norm of three years) to enter the German labour market

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Sector	Career Options	Key Requirements	EU Blue card	Additional information
Scientists	Chemists, biologists, research and development (R&D) researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Relevant scientific qualifications▶ German language proficiency (B1/B2)▶ Qualification recognition (if applicable)	Eligible for EU Blue Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Work in universities, research institutes, and private companies▶ Fellowship programmes available for PhD students and researchers
Skilled crafts and trades	Construction workers, electricians, mechatronics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Vocational qualifications or equivalent recognition▶ German language proficiency (B1/B2)▶ Completion of dual vocational training programmes	Not eligible for the EU Blue Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ High demand in construction, automotive, and energy sectors▶ Opportunities for career advancement to master craftsman or self-employment▶ Options for apprenticeships and training programmes
Drivers	HGV drivers, train drivers, bus drivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Valid EU or European Economic Area (EEA) driving license▶ Completion of initial qualification▶ German language proficiency (level depends on sector)	Not eligible for the EU Blue Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Growing demand in the transport, shipping, and rail industries▶ Training programmes available for aspiring drivers



▶ Resident permits

Germany offers either a permanent or a temporary residence permit. There are two types of temporary permits.

European Union (EU) Blue Card

- ▶ For non-EU academics in skilled employment in Germany
- ▶ Requires a recognized degree, job offer, and minimum salary as mentioned below:
 - ▶ €48,300 gross/year → general threshold for most occupations
 - ▶ €43,759.80 gross/year → lower threshold for shortage occupations, new entrants, and IT specialists
- ▶ Not valid for self-employment
- ▶ Covers all academic fields
- ▶ Recent reforms expand eligibility, mobility, and residence rights
- ▶ Provides a streamlined path for highly qualified professionals, including professional work experience instead of academic qualifications for IT professionals

Temporary residence permit

- ▶ Valid for one year, extendable under certain conditions
- ▶ Issued for study or work, restricting activities to permitted ones
- ▶ Typically, the first step towards permanent residency

Settlement permit

- ▶ Grants indefinite residence with work, business, social benefits, and education support
- ▶ Requires three years of residence, financial stability, pension contributions, employment, B1 German language proficiency, and housing
- ▶ Needs proof of employment, language, health insurance, and residence registration
- ▶ Includes an interview, with processing typically completed within a few weeks

Integration information

Pre-departure measures: A range of initiatives in India aim to prepare prospective migrants for successful labour market integration in Germany.



Language Classes

- ▶ Goethe Institutes and Centres in India offer language courses, certificates, and teacher training to prepare skilled workers for life and work in Germany.
- ▶ Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) and Pädagogischer Austauschdienst (PAD) support teacher training and pre-departure integration for skilled workers.



Training and Skilling

- ▶ Global Skills Partnership (GSP) trains nurses in India with qualifications recognised in Germany, including language and cultural preparation.
- ▶ Karnataka German Technical Training Institute (KGTTI) provides AHK & BIBB-recognised vocational qualifications in technical trades.
- ▶ Hand in Hand for International Talents (IGCC + BMW) helps skilled Indians secure jobs in Germany with end-to-end support for migration and employment.



Qualification Recognition

- ▶ ProRecognition Counselling offers personalised support in India on recognising vocational and academic qualifications, especially in regulated fields like health and engineering.

Integration measures

After migrating from India to Germany, various provisions are in place to ensure a smooth integration into German society.

Professional and Qualification Recognition

- ▶ Service Centre for Professional Recognition (ZSBA) offers guidance on foreign qualification recognition and visa queries.
- ▶ Anerkennung in Deutschland (AKD) helps Indian professionals validate their degrees in Germany.

Welcome Centres

- ▶ Provide in-person support with housing, healthcare, social security, legal rights, and more for international professionals and their families.

Academic and Student Initiatives

- ▶ DAAD's Campus Initiative for International Talents supports Indian students in academics and entry into the German labour market.

Cultural Integration

- ▶ Fair Integration Counselling Services offers free, multilingual guidance on social and labour laws.
- ▶ FEM.OS Plus provides digital legal counselling and labour market support for migrant women.



To know more about the India-Germany Migration Corridor and/or Key Nodal Agencies/Departments in India and Germany, please click here

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