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בהכים הבאים

WELCOME TO CHEMNITZ

➤ **Information for Foreigners and Migrants**



CHEMNITZ
STADT DER
MODERNE

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PREFACE



Dear Reader,

Let me welcome you most warmly to the city of Chemnitz.

The first few steps in a new country and a new city are unfamiliar and often a bit difficult. Filling in documents, applying for permits and many other things take time and effort – especially when you are not yet proficient in the language. We know that, and so we have produced this brochure to make things easier for you.

This brochure is intended to help reduce the amount of time you spend dealing with administrative bodies and public authorities, so that you will have more time to familiarise yourself with the city. For I would like you to feel at ease in Chemnitz and get to know its beauty spots and advantages. In this brochure, you will find the right addresses, contacts and information to get you off to a good start.

Chemnitz is a cosmopolitan city. It embraces diverse cultures, religions, languages and nationalities. Therefore, I would like to encourage you to participate and contribute. The staff of the city's administrative offices will help make things easier for you at the beginning – so that you will have an enjoyable time in Chemnitz or perhaps make it your new home. I very much hope so.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Barbara Ludwig'.

Barbara Ludwig
Lord Mayor of Chemnitz

CHEMNITZ



smac – The Museum of Archaeology



The Town Hall with the statue of Roland



The Rosenhof



Children's playground at Johannisplatz



The Bürgerhaus am Wall



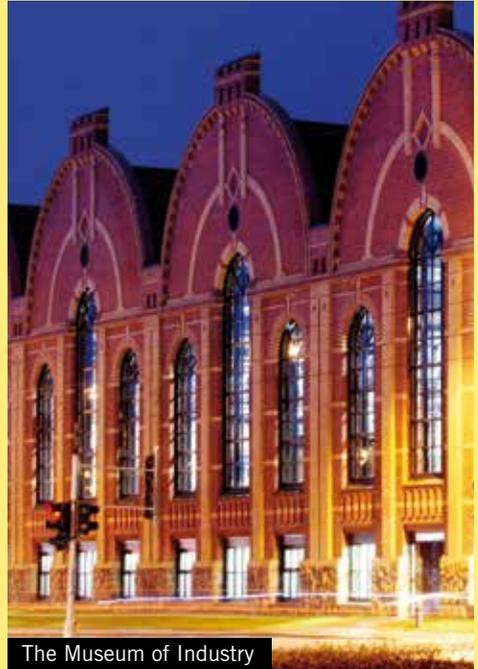
Inside the TIETZ – the petrified forest



Young people at the Karl Marx monument



The Villa Esche



The Museum of Industry



The Park at the Stadthalle



The Auditorium Building at Chemnitz University of Technology (TU)



The Sonnenberg district

INHALT

1. INTRODUCING CHEMNITZ	8
A portrait of the city	8
The commissioner for foreigners' affairs	10
The foreigners' advisory council	10
2. REGISTRATION AND RESIDENCE	11
Registration formalities	11
Information about residence rights	11
Information about the various residence permits	13
Information about naturalisation (acquiring German citizenship)	14
3. HOUSING	16
Flat-hunting and estate agents	16
Rents and accommodation costs	16
4. GERMAN LANGUAGE SUPPORT	18
Language support for children and adolescents	18
Language support for adults	18
5. VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT	20
Recognition of foreign qualifications	20
Vocational training and employment services	21
Starting a business and self-employment	21
6. FAMILY MATTERS	23
Preschool childcare services	23
Starting school	24
Starting vocational training	25
Educational opportunities via the 'second chance' route	25
Studying in Chemnitz	26

7.	SOCIAL SECURITY	27
	Basic security provision for jobseekers	27
	Benefits for asylum seekers – Special benefits for children and adolescents	27
8.	CHEMNITZ AS AN INTERCULTURAL CITY	29
	Advice services	29
	Intercultural events	30
9.	CHEMNITZ AS AN INTERFAITH CITY	32
	Christian congregations in Chemnitz	32
	Other faith communities in Chemnitz	33
10.	CULTURE, SPORT AND LEISURE FACILITIES	35
11.	OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS	36
	Your rights as an employee	36
	Insurance	37
	Public transport	38
	Health	39
	Radio and TV licence fees	40
	Separation of waste	40
	Important phone numbers	42

1. INTRODUCING CHEMNITZ

A portrait of the city

➤ Our past – a binding legacy

Chemnitz has a unique story to tell – of pioneering inventions in motor vehicle manufacturing, mechanical engineering and the textile industry as well as of bold entrepreneurs like Richard Hartmann, Carl Gottlieb Haubold and Louis Schönherr. As a modern industrial city, Chemnitz has never stopped writing this story and now it is one of Germany's fastest growing cities. The city is a centre of technology, focusing particularly on the vehicle manufacturing and component supplying sectors, information technology as well as machinery and plant construction, and its Technology Centre assists entrepreneurs and companies to establish and develop their businesses.

➤ A spirit of inventiveness – examples worth emulating

Breaking the mould, trying new approaches and employing one's inventive talents – these are the attitudes that have made the city and its people successful. For example, it was in Chemnitz that the thermos flask and the first mild washing detergent were developed, ideas that were patented, like a thousand others. Nowadays, the city's products include excellent machinery and production facilities that are used in manufacturing enterprises all over the world.

➤ Education and research – pushing ahead

Ideal conditions for an economic success story are created by the University of Technology (Technische Universität, abbreviated to TU) as an intellectual centre, the Smart System Campus as a dynamic network of microsystem technology skills, research centres such as the Fraunhofer Institutes, and a successful range of small and medium-sized businesses, mostly family-run firms.

➤ Urban architecture – causing a stir

Tradition and modernity are also reflected in fascinating contrasts in urban architecture. Unique examples of the Bauhaus or Neue Sachlichkeit styles, or the Kaßberg, as one of the largest areas of late 19th/early 20th-century buildings (known as the Gründerzeit period) in Europe, are a delight to architecture fans.

Did you know

... that Chemnitz is one of Germany's 30 largest cities?

The same is true of the newly designed buildings in the city centre erected over the past twenty years by such internationally renowned architects as Helmut Jahn, Hans Kollhoff and Christoph Ingenhoven.

➤ **New districts of the city – sophisticated and youthful**

The next major project is already on the starting blocks. With its planned City Centre Campus, Chemnitz is bringing education and science into the heart of the city. Centrally located historical quarters such as the Brühl will develop into sophisticated and youthful districts offering a high quality of life.

➤ **Art – getting people talking**

Art lovers will find plenty to explore in Chemnitz: for a start, there are the Kunstsammlungen Chemnitz, which were designated Germany's Museum of the Year in 2010, and then there is the Museum Gunzenhauser, which houses one of the most impressive collections of classical modern art. The Saxon Museum of Industry showcases both history and current developments.

The Municipal Theatre with its orchestra, the Robert Schumann Philharmonic Orchestra, attracts visitors from all over Germany.

It is also worth paying a visit to the town hall, which is over 100 years old. The council hall contains the monumental mural by Max Klinger entitled “Work – Prosperity – Beauty”. Since 2013, the conference room has been embellished by the painting “The Balancing Act” by Neo Rauch, one of the most significant contemporary artists.

➤ **Recreational amenities – many and varied**

Anyone simply seeking rest and relaxation will also find plenty of suitable places in Chemnitz. Oases such as the Schloßteich lake and the adjacent KÜchwald park are ideal for strolling and unwinding, as is also the historic Stadtpark along the river Chemnitz.

➤ **Famous people – a source of pride for the city**

Many celebrities have been born or grew up in Chemnitz. These include a number of sports stars: the champion figure ice-skater Katarina Witt, the footballer Michael Ballack, Olympic weight-lifting champion Matthias Steiner, pair ice-skating world champions Aljona Savchenko and Robin Szolkowy, discus thrower Lars Riedel, world champion shot-putter David Storl and many, many others. There is a similar range of famous people in the sphere of art and culture: names that are associated with Chemnitz include the writer Stefan Heym, the painter Karl Schmidt-Rottluff, the Bauhaus icon Marianne Brandt and artists such as Carsten Nicolai.

[Be prepared for Chemnitz to surprise you: go out and explore the city – it's worth it!](#)

Did you know

... that the German Patent Law of 1877 was drawn up under the leadership of the Lord Mayor of Chemnitz, Wilhelm André? He wanted to protect the many inventions made in his city from plagiarisers.

The commissioner for foreigners' affairs

The commissioner for foreigners' affairs (Ausländerbeauftragte) provides information and advice to foreign residents and assists different administrative departments with matters relating to foreigners. If you have any problems or queries, in particular those specifically relating to foreigners' affairs, you can contact the commissioner.

Specially designed projects are intended to help migrants to integrate, provide them with guidance, and promote tolerance and peaceful community relations in the city. The commissioner for foreigners' affairs initiates and prepares such projects. In doing so, the commissioner cooperates closely with private organisations and initiatives working with migrants, as well as with the federal state and national commissioners.

Stadt Chemnitz – Ausländerbeauftragte
Annaberger Straße 93
09120 Chemnitz
Tel.: 0371 488-5047
Fax: 0371 488-5096
Email: auslaenderbeauftragte@stadt-chemnitz.de

The foreigners' advisory council

The foreigners' advisory council (Ausländerbeirat) provides all the foreign residents of various nationalities living in Chemnitz with a body that officially represents them and raises their concerns at local government level.

Since its establishment in 2002, the body has stood up for the interests of residents with a migration background and has also worked for a spirit of tolerance and cooperation between all residents of Chemnitz. All proposals by the City Council which concern foreigners are presented to the foreigners' advisory council before a resolution is passed. A representative of the foreigners' advisory council has the right to be heard and to speak concerning all matters affecting foreigners.

The foreigners' advisory council of the City of Chemnitz consists of five members of the City Council as well as eight professionally qualified residents with a migration background. Further information about the foreigners' advisory council is available on the Internet at www.chemnitz.de. You can contact the members of the foreigners' advisory council using the email address: auslaenderbeirat@stadt-chemnitz.de

Did you know

... that a Chemnitz Peace Prize has been awarded in Chemnitz since 2004? The awards are granted to individuals or projects that have made particularly major contributions towards the integration of various cultures and have promoted tolerance, democracy and peace in Chemnitz.

2. REGISTRATION AND RESIDENCE



Registration formalities

If you wish to settle in Chemnitz, you must register at the following registration office:

Stadt Chemnitz – Bürgeramt, Meldebehörde
Bürgerhaus Am Wall
Düsseldorfer Platz 1 (2nd floor)
09111 Chemnitz

or at one of the Bürgerservicestellen (citizens' service offices) in your district of the city.

However, you need only register if your stay in Germany is to be for longer than two months. For registration it is necessary to bring along your identity card or passport. You have a period of 14 days within which to register.

Appointments for registration in the Bürgerhaus Am Wall can be made by calling the uniform national number for government services, 115.

At the end of this brochure you will find a checklist of other types of registration which may be necessary for you.

Information about residence rights

➤ For citizens of EU Member States and EEA states¹

Citizens of EU Member States and EEA states only require a valid identity card or passport in order to enter and reside in the Federal Republic of Germany. They do not require a visa or residence permit.

In the first three months after entry to the country they have an unrestricted right of residence.

After that time, certain preconditions for the free movement of persons must be fulfilled. Persons with the right of free movement are:

- economically active (self-employed or in employment),
- not economically active, provided they have sufficient financial resources and health insurance cover (e.g. students),
- family members (including those from non-EU/EEA states) or
- holders of permanent residence rights.

¹ Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway

Did you know

... that from about 1860 Chemnitz was known as the “Manchester of Saxony”? This was because of the proud achievements of the engineering factories of Chemnitz, but also because of the many chimneys, the polluted air and the poor living conditions of the workers.

Since January 2013, residence cards under the Freedom of Movement Act have no longer been issued by the Ausländerbehörde (office for foreigners' affairs). It is only necessary to register at the Meldebehörde (citizens' registration office) (insofar as you are not here merely as a tourist).

Croatian nationals require a work permit in order to engage in employment. This must be applied for at the following office:

Zentrale Auslands- und Fachvermittlung
Dahlmannstraße 23
47169 Duisburg
Fax: 0203 9907279238
Email: ZAV-Duisburg.AE-Team325@arbeitsagentur.de

➤ For third-country nationals²

For residence in Germany, it is necessary to have a recognised and valid passport or document issued in lieu of a passport as well as a residence permit (visa, residence permit, settlement permit, EU permanent residence permit, Blue Card).

In the Federal Republic of Germany, the bodies responsible for the issuing and extension of residence permits are the offices for foreigners' affairs (Ausländerbehörden). In Chemnitz the Ausländerbehörde is located at:

Stadt Chemnitz – Bürgerhaus Am Wall
Düsseldorfer Platz 1 (3rd floor)
09111 Chemnitz
Tel.: 0371 488-3269
Email: auslaenderbehoerde@stadt-chemnitz.de

You can obtain application forms there or online at www.chemnitz.de. Please find out about the opening times and the possibility of making an appointment.

Since 1st September 2011 residence permits have been issued in the form of an electronic residence permit (elektronischer Aufenthaltstitel or eAT). This is a multifunctional card in credit card format. You will need to attend personally and your fingerprints will be taken; you also need to provide a biometric passport photograph and a signature.

If you already have an electronic residence permit and it is still valid, you can have the address changed when you register at the citizens' registration office (Meldebehörde).

➤ Special regulations for Swiss nationals

Swiss nationals must notify the Ausländerbehörde (office for foreigners' affairs) that they are resident here within three months after entering Germany. Although they enjoy essentially

² Foreigners who are not nationals of an EU Member State, an EEA state or Switzerland

Did you know

... that the deposits in which the Chemnitz petrified forest was found are unique? There is nowhere else in the world where trees, plants and animals are still found at the site where they were buried by volcanic ash.

the same rights as EU citizens, they require a residence permit if staying for longer than three months. They can choose whether to have the residence permit issued as an electronic residence permit (EUR 28.80) or only on paper (EUR 8.00).

Information about the various residence permits

➤ Temporary residence permit (befristete Aufenthaltserlaubnis)

An Aufenthaltserlaubnis is always temporary. It is issued for residence purposes defined in the Residence Act (on family grounds; for purposes of study and training; for employment; under international law obligations or on humanitarian or political grounds). The legal basis for residence is noted in the document.

Please apply for the extension of your Aufenthaltserlaubnis in good time (about six months before it expires). It is not necessary to submit your application in person.

The granting of the Aufenthaltserlaubnis (initial issue) should be applied for immediately after entering the country.

If you have entered Germany without a visa, please go to the information desk at the office for foreigners' affairs (Ausländerbehörde) for further clarification of the procedures.

➤ Settlement permit (Niederlassungserlaubnis)

A Niederlassungserlaubnis is permanent and requires the holder to already have been resident in Germany for several years with an Aufenthaltserlaubnis or EU Blue Card, as well as demonstrating economic and social integration. It is issued on various legal bases, depending on the individuals concerned.

➤ Re-issuing of a residence permit after renewal of a passport

If you have received a new passport, a new electronic residence permit must be issued. For this, it is necessary for you to attend in person so that your biometric data can be obtained.

We recommend that you make an appointment by calling 488-3269 or by emailing auslaenderbehoerde@stadt-chemnitz.de

You will need to bring the following documents with you:

- your old and new passports
- a biometric photograph

A fee will be charged for issuing your residence permit.

Did you know

... that the first Saxon locomotives were built in Chemnitz? Prior to that, locomotives were purchased from England.

Information about naturalisation (acquiring German citizenship)

➤ General

Foreigners have the right to naturalisation after eight years of being legally resident in Germany.

Preconditions for this are:

1. having a permanent or (in some cases) temporary right of residence
2. having a secure livelihood for oneself and one's dependent family members without recourse to social welfare or unemployment benefits (SGB II or SGB XII)
3. evidence of sufficient knowledge of the German language (B1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages)
4. having no criminal record
5. profession of loyalty to the free and democratic order
6. readiness to give up one's former citizenship
7. a citizenship test or leaving certificate from a Hauptschule or a comparable or higher qualification from a general educational German school.

For certain of these preconditions, exceptions are possible (e.g. shorter periods of residence, criminal records, receipt of public benefits, citizenship test etc.), which can be explained in a personal consultation.

Owing to the complexity of the legal situation, consultation at the citizenship office (Staatsangehörigkeitsbehörde) is always necessary before you submit an application.

Stadt Chemnitz – Bürgerhaus Am Wall
Düsseldorfer Platz 1 (3rd floor)
09111 Chemnitz
Tel.: 0371 488-3244
Email: Staatsangehoerigkeitsbehoerde@stadt-chemnitz.de

➤ Naturalisation of family members

Under the preconditions set out above, spouses and children under the age of 16 can be naturalised at the same time. In the case of the spouse, it is sufficient that he or she has been legally resident in Germany for at least four years and that the state of marital cohabitation has existed for at least two years. In the case of children, shorter periods of residence are sufficient.

Adolescents aged 16 or over may apply themselves.

Did you know

... that Chemnitz has an open-air theatre? From May to November, theatrical performances and other events take place on the KÜCHWALDBÜHNE.

➤ Foreign spouses of German nationals

Spouses of German nationals can be naturalised. The spouse must have legally resided in Germany for at least three years. The marriage must have existed for two years and the spouse must have been a German citizen for at least two years.

Applicants for naturalisation must have their main residence in Chemnitz. A formal written application must be made. An individual's personal status must be proven by presenting relevant certificates. Foreign certificates must be translated by a publicly appointed sworn translator. Which other documents may be required in an individual case, and which fees will be charged, will be explained in a personal consultation.

NOTE

Under certain conditions, children may be granted German citizenship at birth if they are born in Germany.

All children born to foreign parents in the Federal Republic of Germany on or after 1st January 2000 are automatically German citizens if, at the time of their birth, the father or the mother of the child

- a) has been continuously legally residing in Germany for at least eight years and
- b) has permanent right of residence under the Residence Act, the EU Freedom of Movement Act or a residence permit on the basis of the Freedom of Movement Treaty between the European Community and its Member States on the one hand and the Swiss Confederation on the other.

The Chemnitz registry office (Standesamt) will check whether these conditions pertain when your child is registered. If the conditions do pertain, the child is a German citizen and the Standesamt will inform you accordingly.

At the same time, the child may acquire the parents' citizenship. When the child comes of age, he or she must choose which citizenship to retain. This decision is called the Optionspflicht (option obligation). Those affected by this option obligation are informed by the citizenship office (Staatsangehörigkeitsbehörde) when they reach the age of 18. If they decide to keep their German citizenship, they must give up their foreign citizenship before their 23rd birthday (by renouncing or being released from their citizenship). If they fail to do that, they may automatically forfeit their German citizenship. The Staatsangehörigkeitsbehörde will also inform you about exceptions to this.

Did you know

... that Chemnitz still has a tower watchman? He guides visitors through the Town Hall and up the tower. There are also special guided tours for children.

3. HOUSING

Flat-hunting and estate agents

Chemnitz offers a suitable living environment for every taste, whether you would like to live in a green area or in the centre of the city. The 39 districts of the city have one thing in common: the people of Chemnitz are family-friendly and you can be sure of finding shopping facilities, kindergartens and schools close by.

You can look for a flat in the newspaper, on the Internet or by contacting landlords directly. If you require help in finding accommodation, you can contact the city's social welfare services for support:

Stadt Chemnitz – Sozialamt
Abteilung Migration, Integration, Wohnen
(Department of Migration, Integration and Housing)
Annaberger Straße 93
09120 Chemnitz
Tel.: 0371 488-5027 or -5042
Email: migranten.wohnungslose@stadt-chemnitz.de

Rents and accommodation costs

The rent for a flat usually consists of the basic rent plus the “cold” and “warm” operating costs. Cold operating costs cover cold water supply, caretaker services, a lift and chimney sweeping. These costs are shared by all the tenants in the building. You pay warm operating costs for, among other things, heating and hot water. All operating costs are usually paid in advance each month and once a year a settlement of accounts takes place.

In Germany, there are regulations concerning noise in rented accommodation. The volume of noise made in the flat should be such that sounds cannot be clearly heard, or should be barely perceptible, outside the flat. Between 10 pm and 6 am it should be quiet, and disturbance of the other tenants in the building should be avoided. If you are inconvenienced by noise from other tenants, you should first contact your landlord.

Did you know

... that Chemnitz is the third largest city in eastern Germany?

You can apply for housing benefit to help pay for your flat. Whether you are eligible to claim will be determined by looking into your financial circumstances. If you have any queries about housing benefit or wish to apply, please contact:

Stadt Chemnitz – Sozialamt (social welfare office)
Kundenportal Soziale Leistungen (social welfare benefits)
Moritzhof
Bahnhofstraße 53
09111 Chemnitz
Email: soziale.leistungen@stadt-chemnitz.de

Information can also be obtained at www.chemnitz.de.

Did you know

... that the important Art Nouveau architect Henry van de Velde worked for several Chemnitz factory owners? Three of the impressive houses designed or furnished by him still exist: the Esche Villa, the Körner Villa and the interior décor of the Villa Quisisana.

4. GERMAN LANGUAGE SUPPORT

Language support for children and adolescents

Newly arrived children and adolescents between the ages of 6 and 18 are placed in preparatory classes in schools or preparatory classes with practical vocational aspects. Further information about this can be found in Chapter 6 in the section entitled “Integration of children with a migration background”.

In addition, unaccompanied refugees who are under the age of majority (that is, children and adolescents under the age of 18 who arrive in Germany alone and without an accompanying parent or legal guardian) can obtain help in finding their way in an unfamiliar country. This consists, first and foremost, of instruction in the German language but also includes social and educational support for these young people.

This support is provided by the organisation:

AG In- und Ausländer e. V.
Müllerstraße 12
09113 Chemnitz
Email: umf@agiua.de

Language support for adults

➤ Integration language courses

Integration courses are intended for all new arrivals residing permanently in Germany who are entitled or obliged to participate and who speak little or no German. Foreigners who have already been living in Germany for some time may also be obliged to participate.

If you are entitled or obliged to participate, the Ausländerbehörde or the job centre will provide you with a certificate of entitlement as well as an up-to-date list of course providers in Chemnitz.

The general integration course consists of a language course of 600 hours and an orientation course of 60 hours of instruction.

In the language course, you will learn the vocabulary that you need for speaking and writing in everyday life.

Did you know

... that Chemnitz has a petrified forest? After the eruption of a volcano 290 million years ago (in what is today the Zeisigwald forest), many of the trees that were buried turned to stone. Some of them can be seen in the TIETZ building or at the excavation site in the district of Sonnenberg.

The orientation course informs you about life in Germany and provides information about the legal system, German culture and modern history.

There are full-time and part-time courses. The integration course finishes with a final test consisting of a language test and a test about “Life in Germany”. If you pass both tests, you will receive the “Zertifikat Integrationskurs” (Integration Course Certificate).

The knowledge you acquire there will be necessary if you wish to acquire a permanent right of residence in Germany. If you intend to acquire German citizenship, you may be able to attain naturalisation earlier. What is more, the knowledge of German that you acquire will improve your opportunities on the job market.

Integration courses are subsidised by the state. Therefore, you need only pay a small contribution for each lesson to the organisation that runs the course. In the event of financial hardship, you may apply to be exempted from payment by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge or BAMF) in Chemnitz.

BAMF Außenstelle Chemnitz
Adalbert-Stifter-Weg 2509131 Chemnitz
Tel.: 0371 4901-0
Fax: 0371 4901-199
Email: M11Posteingang@bamf.bund.de

For further information see www.bamf.de.

➤ German for work purposes

In order to find employment and be successful in your work it is important to have a good command of German. There are therefore special courses in which you can learn business-related German.

The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) offers courses entitled “Deutsch für den Beruf” (German for Work Purposes) free of charge for people with a migration background. These courses combine German language lessons with vocational instruction and the opportunity to get to know a trade or profession through a practical training placement.

In addition to the courses sponsored by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) there are also other German courses for work purposes. These often involve paying a fee. It is worth making detailed enquiries and comparing the courses, because their contents are often very different. Always select the course that is best suited to your needs.

Further information can again be found at www.bamf.de.

➤ Other opportunities to promote your progress in the language

Some other organisations offer language and conversation courses at a low cost. You can obtain up-to-date information about them from the commissioner for foreigners' affairs (Ausländerbeauftragte) or the social welfare office (Sozialamt).

5. VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

Recognition of foreign qualifications

If you have obtained a school or higher educational qualification in your home country, this is a great advantage when seeking employment in Germany.

The process known as “berufliche Anerkennung” means the evaluation and – in the event of a positive decision – confirmation of the equivalence of a foreign vocational qualification to a German qualification. Legally regulated procedures are used to assess whether your training is equivalent to a comparable German course of training and whether your professional qualifications can be officially recognised.

Official recognition of your qualifications is helpful in many trades and professions. In the case of some occupations, it is even a precondition for working in a specific trade or profession in Germany. It depends on the particular occupation concerned:

In the **regulated professions**, you can only work in the profession or use the professional title if your professional qualifications have been recognised. Without such recognition, you are not permitted to work in these professions in Germany on the basis of your vocational qualification acquired abroad. Examples of regulated professions in Germany are those of medical practitioner, nurse, lawyer, teacher, educator and engineer.

The database listing all professions that are currently regulated in Germany can be found at www.berufenet.arbeitsagentur.de/berufe.

In **non-regulated professions**, the recognition of qualifications is not a compulsory prerequisite for working in the profession. In these professions you can apply directly on the job market and find work. An evaluation of your qualification can be helpful, however, in order to make your foreign qualification understandable for potential employers and businesses. Furthermore, a qualification that is recognised as equivalent provides access to occupational further education courses. All the occupations known in Germany as Ausbildungsberufe, i.e. occupations taught according to the ‘dual system’ combining practical training and classroom-based education, are non-regulated. A list of all the Ausbildungsberufe in Germany can be found at www.bibb.de

You can find out whether you need recognition if you wish to work in the trade or profession you have trained for by consulting the website www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de

Did you know

... that in the Federal Republic of Germany there has been a Law on the Recognition of Qualifications Attained Abroad since 1st April 2012?

Vocational training and employment services

You can obtain help in looking for vocational training or employment from the Federal Employment Agency:

Agentur für Arbeit
Heinrich-Lorenz-Straße 20
09120 Chemnitz

The Agentur für Arbeit is particularly responsible for providing careers advice and for helping to find employment and vocational training places, as well as for promoting job creation. It organises the payment of financial benefits such as unemployment benefit, vocational training support and rehabilitation benefits.

The services provided for the promotion of job creation consist, for example, in supporting occupational further education, the payment of subsidies to cover wage and settling-in costs or for business start-ups, the promotion of employment and vocational training for disabled people and the running of job creation schemes.

Vocational training courses for disadvantaged young people (e.g. run by a company in an external institution) can be supported as vocational training or as assistance measures accompanying training.

The issuance of work permits is another of the tasks performed by the Agentur für Arbeit. The family benefits departments of the Agentur für Arbeit pay child benefit and child benefit supplement upon application.

Further information can be obtained at: www.arbeitsagentur.de.

Starting a business and self-employment

Would you like to set up your own business? If you want to be self-employed, you will need to prepare well.

There is a comprehensive network of advisory centres in Chemnitz for people who wish to set up their own businesses and these can be used free of charge and with little bureaucracy. As a self-employed person, you need to get voluntary health insurance cover and pay your taxes to the relevant tax office in Chemnitz yourself. It is possible to obtain voluntary unemployment insurance cover. Those who are self-employed or work as freelancers should definitely join a private disability pension scheme. In order to ensure sufficient financial provision in retirement, it is advisable to contribute to a private old-age pension scheme.

Useful contacts on your way to becoming self-employed may be:

Handwerkskammer Chemnitz (Chamber of Handicrafts)
Limbacher Straße 195
09116 Chemnitz
www.hwk-chemnitz.de

Did you know

... that in the 18th century foreign merchants helped Chemnitz become a centre of the textile industry? They supplied cheap cotton and purchased semifinished and finished products. The Schloßbergmuseum (Castle Hill Museum) has 7 portraits of Macedonians on display.

Industrie- und Handelskammer Chemnitz (Chamber of Industry and Commerce)
Straße der Nationen
09111 Chemnitz
www.chemnitz.ihk24.de

Dienstleistungszentrum für Selbstständige mit Migrationshintergrund
(Service Centre for Self-Employed Persons with a Migration Background)
Bernsdorfer Str. 12
09126 Chemnitz
www.dlzm.de

Netzwerk Integration durch Qualifizierung (Integration through Qualification Network)
www.netzwerk-iq.de

NOTE

Please note that your type of residence permit must allow you to engage in self-employment. If you have any queries about this, please contact the Ausländerbehörde (office for foreigners' affairs).

Did you know

... that the Senior Forester of Grüna, Ernst Georg August Baumgarten, invented the first dirigible airship in the 19th century, even before Count Zeppelin? The first successful launch took place in Grüna on 30th July 1879.

6. FAMILY MATTERS



Preschool childcare services

Children in Chemnitz can attend a child day-care facility. These include crèches (Kinderkrippe(n)), kindergartens, childminders (Tagesmütter) and after-school centres (Horte) run either by the local authority or by private organisations. Childcare is available for children from the age of 9 weeks to 11 years. At the preschool stage, crèches, childminders and kindergartens may look after children for a maximum of 7.5 hours per day. In after-school centres, children can be looked after for up to 4 hours a day.

Parental contributions are charged for places in childcare facilities. These may be partly or fully waived. The amount is calculated according to the income situation of the family. Advice concerning applications and assistance with filling in applications for a place in a local authority institution can be obtained from:

Stadt Chemnitz – Amt für Jugend und Familie (Youth Welfare and Family Office)
Abteilung Kindertageseinrichtung/Tagespflege (Child Daycare Department)
Moritzhof
Bahnhofstraße 53
09111 Chemnitz

Application forms and other information can be found at www.chemnitz.de.

Of course, it is also possible to register children in child daycare centres run by private organisations. Registrations, transfers and de-registrations for places in child daycare centres run by private organisations are to be made in the centres themselves.

IMPORTANT NOTES

Register your child early for a place in a kindergarten. Your child's German language development will be greatly enhanced there and this will help your child to be better prepared for starting school.

If you have problems obtaining a place in a kindergarten, you can contact one of the migration advisory centres at any time.

Did you know

... that there are 138 daycare centres for children in Chemnitz?

Starting school

In Saxony, all children and adolescents who are permanently or ordinarily resident in Saxony, or have their place of training or employment in Saxony, are obliged to attend school.

➤ Registration

All children who will reach their 6th birthday by 30 June of the year concerned must be registered in the primary school that is responsible for their school district. Children whose 6th birthday falls between 1st July and 30th September may be registered. In this case a written application for early entry into school must be submitted to the head teacher of the primary school in question.

IMPORTANT NOTES

When registering, the signature of both parents is necessary. Single parents must present a certificate of parental custody. If parents wish their child to attend a privately run school, they must nevertheless initially register the child at the primary school responsible for the school district.

➤ Integration of children with a migration background

In order to enable children with a migration background to integrate as quickly as possible into Saxon schools, a special concept has been in place since the early 1990s. This Saxon concept for the integration of migrants in schools is embedded within the Saxon curriculum for preparatory groups, preparatory classes, and preparatory classes with practical occupational aspects with German as a Second Language.

For children with a migration background at general educational and vocational schools in the Free State of Saxony, school integration takes place in the following 3 stages:

1. Instruction in preparatory classes (at selected primary and secondary schools),
2. Instruction in preparatory classes along with partial integration into regular classes (at selected primary and secondary schools) and
3. Additional support in regular classes in all schools, with particular emphasis on academic language

If necessary, ask at your child's kindergarten or school whether there are opportunities for additional language support. In many schools, instruction in the mother tongue is also offered, as well as assistance with homework and other activities.

If attending school gives rise to exceptional costs (for example, travel to school, class trips etc.), you can apply for financial support. This is in order for the special needs of children to be taken into account. If you have any queries, contact your child's school.

Did you know

... that children who grow up speaking more than one language have the right for this linguistic potential to be regarded by their school as a special talent or aptitude and for it to be fostered and developed to the greatest possible extent? For this reason, mother-tongue instruction is provided in 12 languages.

Further information can be obtained from the Saxon Educational Agency:

Sächsische Bildungsagentur
Regionalstelle Chemnitz
Annaberger Straße 119
09120 Chemnitz
www.sba.smk.sachsen.de

Starting vocational training

After finishing school, your children can begin vocational training. In Germany there is, in most cases, a 'dual system' of vocational training. This means that classroom-based instruction and periods of practical training alternate and are coordinated with one another. Applications can be made directly to a company that is offering training or via the Employment Agency (Agentur für Arbeit). Careers advice can also be provided by the Agentur für Arbeit.

Further information can be obtained from:
www.arbeitsagentur.de

As a preparatory stage for vocational training, it is also possible to participate in a Berufsvorbereitungsjahr (BVJ). This can be arranged via the school or the Agentur für Arbeit. Participation in a Berufsvorbereitungsjahr fulfils the obligation of young people to attend school, and under certain circumstances it is also possible to acquire the Hauptschulabschluss (basic school leaving certificate) during this year. During the BVJ, basic vocational education is provided covering one or several occupational fields. It therefore also serves to provide vocational guidance, as well as broadening the students' general education and enabling them to acquire basic key skills leading to a (greater) level of readiness for vocational training. After attending the BVJ for one year, the period of compulsory school attendance comes to an end, even if the final examination is not passed.

Educational opportunities via the 'second chance' route

School leaving qualifications can also be attained by adults, thus considerably increasing their chances on the job market. The opportunities available are as follows:

➤ Abendoberschule

It is possible to attain a basic school leaving certificate (Hauptschulabschluss) or secondary school leaving certificate (Realschulabschluss) at an Abendoberschule ('evening secondary school'). The preconditions for this are that you have completed the full period of compulsory school attendance (9 years) and vocational school attendance (3 years) or have participated in a BVJ or a social or ecological year (at least one year). You must also be at least 18 years old.

Did you know

... that Chemnitz's municipal library contains around 17,000 items (books, CDs, DVDs, newspapers etc.) in 35 languages? These include many language-learning aids, including those for German as a Second Language.

In addition, you must not already be in possession of the qualification you wish to obtain or an equivalent qualification, and you must not have twice failed the examination for the qualification you hope to obtain.

Information about the Abendoberschule, notes concerning the application documents you will require, deadlines and contact details can be found at www.abendmittelschule-chemnitz.de.tl.

➤ Abendgymnasium

You can also attain a general university entrance qualification (allgemeine Hochschulreife) at the Abendgymnasium in Chemnitz. For this, you need to have a school leaving qualification showing evidence of ten years of school attendance (Realschulabschluss or Abschluss einer Polytechnischen Oberschule, Klasse 10). You must be at least 18 years old and be able to provide evidence of vocational training or at least two years of work.

Information about the Abendgymnasium, notes concerning the application documents you will require, deadlines and contact details can be found at www.abendgymnasium-chemnitz.de.

Educational opportunities via the 'second chance' route are free of charge, and books and equipment are also provided free of charge.

Some Volkshochschulen (adult education centres) in Saxony also offer adults the chance to attain the Hauptschulabschluss or Realschulabschluss in full-time courses. The examinations are then taken at designated secondary schools.

In Saxony, it is also possible to attain general-educational school leaving qualifications after preparing for them independently, in which case the examinations are conducted externally. Adult education institutions such as Volkshochschulen and private educational organisations offer preparatory courses for these examinations. Each examination consists of a written and oral part and takes place once a year. Applications for admission to the examinations must be submitted to the relevant regional office of the Sächsische Bildungsagentur.

Studying in Chemnitz

The Technische Universität (University of Technology or TU) Chemnitz currently has more than 10,000 students in 8 faculties. At the university, it is possible to attain a Bachelor's or Master's degree or to train as a teacher.

If you intend to study at the TU Chemnitz, you can obtain detailed information from the academic advisory office:

Zentrale Studienberatung
TU Chemnitz
Straße der Nationen 62
09111 Chemnitz.

Further information can be found at www.tu-chemnitz.de.

Did you know

... that the TU Chemnitz offers children's lectures for children between the ages of 7 and 12? These lectures are free of charge. Registration is not necessary.



7. SOCIAL SECURITY

Basic security provision for jobseekers

If necessary, you can claim a basic jobseeker's allowance from the job centre (Jobcenter).

Job centres are the regional institutions in which the Agentur für Arbeit and local authorities organise the provision of basic security allowance or Grundsicherung (also known as Arbeitslosengeld II). Case managers at the job centre provide guidance and advice to jobseekers who are claiming Arbeitslosengeld II. They support them in looking for work. The job centres can also provide the same measures to promote employment as the Agenturen für Arbeit. The aim is to help the person concerned to be able to support themselves independently in the future.

Further information can be obtained at www.jobcenter-ge.de.

Depending on your personal situation, you may be eligible to apply to the social welfare office (Sozialamt) for further social benefits such as allowances for old age or disability as well as for children and adolescents, benefits from the Bildungs- und Teilhabepaket (a package of special support measures to enable children and adolescents to take advantage of and participate in educational opportunities), federal parental allowance (Bundeselterngeld), federal state child-raising allowance (Landeserziehungsgeld) and home childcare allowance (Betreuungsgeld).

Further information is available at www.chemnitz.de/chemnitz/de/soziales-gesundheit/soziales.

Benefits for asylum seekers – Special benefits for children and adolescents

If the type of residence permit you have is

- Aufenthaltsgestattung (temporary residence permit),
- Duldung (suspension of deportation),
- residence permit on the basis of Section 23 (1) or Section 25 IV or V of the Residence Act (Aufenthaltsgesetz, AufenthG),

you can apply for benefits under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act (Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz). These benefits cover such things as money for food, clothing, housing and heating. You also receive pocket money for your personal everyday needs.

Did you know

... that there are 112 public playgrounds and recreation areas for children and adolescents in Chemnitz?

For children and adolescents, special benefits such as allowances for the cost of class trips, meals at school and kindergarten, and school materials can also be applied for.

These benefits can be applied for at the social welfare office:

Stadt Chemnitz – Sozialamt
Abt. Migration, Integration und Wohnen
(Department of Migration, Integration and Housing)
Annaberger Straße 93
09120 Chemnitz.

Did you know

... that the German Music Festival (Deutsches Musikfest) took place in Chemnitz in May 2013?
As many as 15,000 musicians from Germany and all over Europe were involved.

8. CHEMNITZ AS AN INTERCULTURAL CITY



Advice services

Chemnitz is a city which currently has 9000 foreign residents. There is a wide range of advice centres and meeting places which provide migrants with support and guidance as they integrate into our city.

In addition, a number of self-help organisations, associations and faith groups have been established which likewise promote the integration of groups of migrants living in Chemnitz, and also give them the opportunity and spaces where they can cultivate their home culture, language and religion and pass these on to the next generation.

Initial integration support for adults is offered by the migration advice centres (Migrationsberatungsstellen) of the Workers Welfare Association (AWO):

Arbeiterwohlfahrt Chemnitz e. V.
Max-Müller-Str. 13
09123 Chemnitz
Tel.: 0371 2677572
Email: mbe@awo-chemnitz.de

and of

Caritas für Chemnitz und Umgebung e. V.
Augustusburger Str. 21b
09111 Chemnitz
Tel.: 0371 2607882
Email: migration-meb@caritas-chemnitz.de

Support for children in integrating into school is provided by the youth migration service (Jugendmigrationsdienst) of the Workers Welfare Association (AWO) at:

Wiesenstraße 10
09111 Chemnitz
Tel.: 0371 67426-12
Email: jmd@awo-chemnitz.de

Did you know

... that Chemnitz is home to 26 associations representing different nationalities? From A as in Angolan to V as in Vietnamese, people come together to cultivate their language and culture and to support each other.

You can obtain further information about which advice centre or which intercultural institution has something suitable on offer for you, or which migrants' self-help organisations exist, from the commissioner for foreigners' affairs:

Stadt Chemnitz – Ausländerbeauftragte
Annaberger Str. 93
09120 Chemnitz
Tel.: 0371 488-5047
Fax: 0371 488-5096
Email: auslaenderbeauftragte@stadt-chemnitz.de

Contact details can also be found in the brochure entitled "Die Ausländerbeauftragte informiert" (available online at www.chemnitz.de/chemnitz/de/aktuelles/publikationen) as well as in the Sozialatlas Chemnitz at www.sozialatlas-chemnitz.de.

Intercultural events

➤ Intercultural Weeks

In 1975, the churches organised the first "Ausländersonntag" ('Foreigners' Sunday'). Shortly afterwards, a committee was formed consisting of churches, trades unions and commissioners for foreigners' affairs in order to prepare the first "Woche des ausländischen Mitbürgers" ('Foreign Residents' Week').

The Week itself had a strong appeal in many towns and villages, but the name was increasingly unpopular. As of 1991, it was renamed the Interkulturelle Woche (Intercultural Week), and in that year it was also held for the first time in the new federal states in the eastern part of Germany (the former GDR), in towns and villages where the proportion of foreign residents is much lower but where people have considerable reservations and fears regarding foreigners.

As Saxony's third-largest city, with the proportion of foreign residents currently lying at about 4 %, Chemnitz has also regularly organised its own Intercultural Week every year since 1991, following an appeal by the Preparatory Committee. This series of events, which in Chemnitz now goes on for two weeks, is ceremonially opened in September each year.

The programme is published in a booklet and can also be viewed and downloaded online at www.chemnitz.de

Did you know

... that there are people from more than 120 countries living in Chemnitz?

➤ Intercultural Film Week

Since 2013, an Intercultural Film Week has also taken place immediately following the Intercultural Weeks.

With its wide spectrum of films in different genres, the Intercultural Film Week is a wonderful opportunity to bring home such matters as migration, integration, different ways of life, day-to-day racism, racism, xenophobia and right-wing extremism in a vivid and interesting way, to give intensive consideration to these topics and discuss them from different perspectives.

➤ Integration Fair

The first Integrationsmesse (Integration Fair) run by the City of Chemnitz took place in spring 2012. It is intended for migrants who are looking for access to the job market. As well as advice provided by companies, public authorities, educational service providers and associations, the fair also provides an opportunity to learn more about the application process in Germany. The Integrationsmesse is an annual event.

Did you know

... that in Chemnitz there is an extinct volcano? When the Beutenberg in the Zeisigwald erupted 290 million years ago, plants and animals in what is now the territory of the city were covered with a layer of ash several metres high, in some cases preserving them until the present day.

9. CHEMNITZ AS AN INTERFAITH CITY

In Germany, people have freedom of religion.

Therefore, there are many different faith communities in our country. Christians form the largest proportion of religious believers. The largest group within that faith community are the Catholics, who constitute 30 percent of the German population. Another 28 % of the total population belong to the Protestant branch of Christianity. Islam is the religion of 5 % of the population, and around 200,000 Jews live in Germany.

Christian congregations in Chemnitz

As elsewhere in Germany, there are many different Christian groups in Chemnitz. The largest faith community in Chemnitz is that of the Protestants. There are Protestant churches in all districts of the city. Catholics constitute the second largest religious community in Chemnitz. You can find out about the Catholic congregations in Chemnitz at the Priory of St. Johannes Nepomuk, Hohe Straße 1 in 09111 Chemnitz.

The following faith communities in Chemnitz are of particular interest to people with a migration background:

Russische Orthodoxe Gemeinde (Russian Orthodox Church) "Mariä Geburt"	Hohe Straße 1 09112 Chemnitz www.russische-kirche-c.de
Evangelische Internationale Gemeinde (Protestant International Congregation)	Theaterstraße 76 09111 Chemnitz www.jesus-ist.net
Chinesische evangelische Gemeinde (Chinese Protestant Congregation)	Vettersstrasse 70/72 (1 st floor, link building) 09126 Chemnitz Contact person: Mr. Fei Xu

Further information is available from www.kirche-chemnitz.de.
Please feel free to find out more.

Did you know

... that Chemnitz has 12 twin cities in Europe, Asia, Africa and the USA?

Other faith communities in Chemnitz

➤ Judaism

In the second half of the 19th century, a vibrant Jewish community developed in Chemnitz. The first burial in the Jewish cemetery in the Altendorf district of the city took place in 1879. The first synagogue in Chemnitz was consecrated at Stephanplatz in 1899.

In 1923, the Jewish community consisted of 3500 members and there were 26 Jewish clubs and associations. One in three out of the 600 Chemnitz factory owners in Chemnitz, every tenth doctor, and many artists, were Jewish. As a result of the Nazi terror, Jewish life in Chemnitz was destroyed along with the synagogue.

After 1945, there was a tiny community again. In 1957, it had just 35 members and by 1989 only 12 remained. After the reunification of Germany, numbers rose again owing to migration from the countries of the former Soviet Union. The Jewish community in Chemnitz now has about 650 members. In 2002, the new synagogue was consecrated on Stollberger Straße.

Jüdische Gemeinde Chemnitz	Stollberger Straße 28 09119 Chemnitz www.jg-chemnitz.de
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➤ Islam

Islam constitutes the third largest faith community in Germany after the two Christian denominations. So far the number of adherents in Chemnitz is relatively small - around 505 Muslims attend Friday prayers. There are three registered mosques in the city.

Fatih Camii Mosque Turkish Cultural Society	Zieschestraße 13 09111 Chemnitz Tel.: 0371 4791036
Masjid Mosque Islamic Cultural Society	Solbrigstraße 22a 09120 Chemnitz www.moschee-chemnitz.de
Mosque der TU Chemnitz	Reichenhainer Straße 51 09126 Chemnitz
Arabisch-Islamische Begegnungsstätte El Hadi e. V.	Dresdner Straße 58 09130 Chemnitz

As well as religious events, the Islamic communities also offer other services.

Did you know

... that Chemnitz is home to more than 50 churches and places of worship of various religions?

➤ Sikh

In Germany, there live about 5000 Sikhs, mostly in the major conglomerations of western Germany. The local temples are called “Gurdwara” (Door to the Guru). Sikhs also have the opportunity to practise their religion in Chemnitz.

Meeting place:

Sikh Gemeinde “Gurdwara” Tempel Chemnitz	Wiesenstraße 11 (2. OG) 09111 Chemnitz Tel.: 0371 664855
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➤ Bahá'í

In Saxony, the Bahá'ís are a religious minority with only around 80 adherents. The Chemnitz Bahá'í community has about 30 members.

Meeting place:

Bahá'í-Gemeinde Martha-Root-Haus	Dittersdorfer Straße 79 09120 Chemnitz www.chemnitz.bahai.de
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➤ Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints (Mormons)

There are two Mormon temples in Germany, one in Freiberg, located between Chemnitz and Dresden, and one in Friedrichsdorf, a suburb of Frankfurt am Main.

However, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints has community meeting places in several cities, including Chemnitz.

Kirche Jesu Christi der Heiligen der Letzten Tage	Stelzendorfer Straße 25 09116 Chemnitz www.kirche-jesu-christi.org oder www.mormonen.de
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Did you know

... that there is a dripstone “cave” in Chemnitz? Until 1908, the visitor attraction known as the Felsendome (‘rock cathedrals’) was a limestone mine.

10. CULTURE, SPORT AND LEISURE FACILITIES



Chemnitz is a city with numerous interesting cultural establishments, sports facilities and leisure amenities. The Städtische Theater (Municipal Theatre) with its five sections – opera, theatre, philharmonic orchestra, ballet and puppet theatre – is well known beyond the bounds of Saxony. The Kunstsammlungen Chemnitz, which also incorporate the Gunzenhauser Museum, the Schloßbergmuseum and the Villa Esche, regularly attract guests from all over the world with their exciting exhibitions. The Petrified Forest in the TIETZ is world-famous on account of its unique character.

The Stadthalle and the Chemnitz trade fair centre (Messe Chemnitz) are well known for their regular concerts aimed at both older and younger audiences. A focal point for many young people is the Weltecho, a cultural centre for alternative art and culture.

Our city is also well known as a city of sport. Chemnitz has a tradition of Olympic success that is almost unrivalled by any other city in Germany. In addition to top-class sport there are also, of course, plenty of opportunities to engage in recreational sport. There are 217 sports clubs, where it is possible to do sport at any level, whatever your ambitions.

Further information on culture, sport and leisure facilities can be found at www.chemnitz.de/chemnitz/de/kultur-freizeit.

Did you know

... that at Olympic Games up to 2013, sports men and women from Chemnitz won a total of 27 gold, 33 silver and 29 bronze medals?



11. OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS

Your rights as an employee

➤ Permission to work

Whether or not you are permitted to work depends on your citizenship and your residence status. You can obtain information about this from the Ausländerbehörde (office for foreigners' affairs), the Agentur für Arbeit (employment agency) and the advice centres.

➤ Employment contract

An employment contract is necessary for any kind of employment as a matter of principle. It is always advisable for you to conclude a written employment contract!

➤ Pay

Your pay will be documented on a payslip. This is a detailed record of your gross and net pay, along with any allowances and deductions. Allowances are such things as f. ex. child benefit. Deductions are made for unemployment insurance, pension insurance and health insurance. Taxes are levied on your pay.

➤ Working hours

In most German companies, employees work 40 hours per week. The number of working hours depends on the employer, the tasks to be performed and the sector. The working hours are set out in the employment contract.

➤ Annual leave

Under the Federal Holidays Act (Bundesurlaubsgesetz) paid annual leave must amount to at least 24 working days per calendar year (six-day week). If a five-day week has been agreed with the employee, the statutory minimum annual leave is 20 working days. The statutory minimum annual leave is mandatory. Of course, it is possible for an increased amount of leave to be agreed with the employee.

Did you know

... that the world's first Health Insurance Act for low-paid employees was passed and implemented in Germany in 1883?

➤ Probationary period and termination of employment

An employment contract is usually preceded by a probationary period. This can be agreed in the form of a temporary probationary employment contract. The employment contract terminates automatically at the end of the probationary period. The temporary employment contract is turned into a permanent employment contract if the continuation of the employment contract at the end of the probationary period has been previously agreed upon, or if the employment contract is tacitly extended by common accord. It is mandatory for temporary employment contracts to be concluded in writing.

Permanent employment contracts may include a probationary period of no more than six months. Within the probationary period the employment contract may be terminated subject to a two-week notice period.

The notice period is always set out in the employment contract. The employer may not terminate the employee's contract if he or she is in one of the following situations: illness or accident, pregnancy, maternity protection period, parental leave.

Terminations of contract must be given to the other contractual partner in writing. Employees have the right to an employment reference (a written assessment of their work).

➤ Unemployment – what now?

As soon as you become aware of your imminent unemployment, you should register as quickly as possible at the employment agency (Agentur für Arbeit) to say that you are looking for work or are unemployed. In order to be granted unemployment benefit, you must prove that you meet the conditions for claiming.

Insurance

➤ Obligatory insurance cover

The most important obligatory types of insurance are health insurance, pension insurance and nursing care insurance. People in employment are automatically insured. If you fail to pay your health insurance premiums, they can be charged retrospectively, leaving you in debt! Non-working EU citizens who have transferred their residence to Germany (i.e. have registered here as residents and given up their residence in their homeland) are given a certificate by the health insurance provider in their own country so that they can register with a health insurance company (Krankenkasse) at their new place of residence. The German Krankenkasse issues a health insurance card and the holder has the right to non-cash benefits in accordance with German health insurance law.

➤ Voluntary insurance cover

The most important voluntary types of insurance are third-party liability insurance, house contents insurance and life insurance. If a person accidentally injures or causes damage to

Did you know

... that illicit employment (working without official permission) is prohibited?

the property of another person, his third-party liability insurance covers the costs. The house contents insurance provider pays if things in your home are damaged, for example by water. And the life insurance company pays out if you die. The money then goes to your children, for example.

Public transport

Public transport within the city consists of buses, trams and trains operated by the company Chemnitzer Verkehrs AG (CVAG).

Nearly all public transport routes converge at the Zentralhaltestelle (central interchange) in the city centre. From there, they travel radially out to the different districts of Chemnitz. The routes are coordinated in such a way that waiting periods are short when transferring from one route to another.

As well as shops and snack kiosks, the CVAG information centre is also to be found at the central interchange:

Mobilitätszentrum der CVAG
Chemnitz-Plaza
Rathausstraße 7
09111 Chemnitz
Tel.: 0371 2370333

There, you can get information and advice about the type of ticket you need directly from the staff at the desk, as well as picking up timetables for the various public transport routes in the city. At the information desk, you can also find out about the best connection to your destination.

Within the territory of the city you can travel by bus, tram or train. You need a ticket. Make sure you buy the right ticket! You can buy tickets as single journey tickets, day tickets and weekly tickets, or tickets for a whole month. The monthly ticket is transferable, and so if necessary other people can use it.

Information on prices, tickets, special conditions of carriage etc. can be obtained at the CVAG's Mobilitätszentrum at the central interchange.

➤ Sale of tickets on buses

On our buses you can purchase a ticket directly from the driver. The tickets are already validated at the time of purchase.

In the interests of smooth passenger service, please have your money ready in coins. The drivers only have a limited amount of change with them.



Did you know

... that CVAG buses have their entrance at the front and their exit at the back?
Passengers with wheelchairs and prams are still allowed to enter at the back.

➤ Sale of tickets on trams

Our modern trams all have a mobile ticket machine where you can purchase the whole range of tickets (with the exception of subscription tickets) sold by Verkehrsverbund Mittelsachsen (the regional transport alliance). The tickets are already validated at the time of purchase.

You can pay using:

- coins
- notes up to € 50
- EC or credit card



➤ Sale of tickets at stops

You select the type of tickets you require by pressing a button or using a touchscreen on the ticket machine. There is a selected range of tickets available. The tickets must be validated as you enter the vehicle.

You can pay using:

- coins
- notes
- EC card with charged chip



It is particularly important that you always have a valid ticket when using public transport. If you do not have a ticket, or your ticket is not valid, and an inspection takes place, you have to pay the standard fare of € 40. Travelling without a ticket can even result in prosecution.

(Source: CVAG)

Health

You can find out about health and preventative healthcare matters from the separate health guide (Gesundheitswegweiser) produced for migrants in the Free State of Saxony, which is published in English, French, Russian, Polish and Vietnamese.

The Gesundheitswegweiser is intended to help migrants find their way around the Saxon healthcare system more easily.

The brochure can be obtained online at www.publikationen.sachsen.de.

Did you know

... that Chemnitz's zoo, "Tierpark Chemnitz", will be 50 years old in 2014? It is home to around 1000 animals from all over the world.

Radio and TV licence fees

Since 1st January 2013 the system has been: one apartment – one licence. The radio and TV licence fee is currently about € 18 per month. The number of TV or radio sets and the number of persons in the apartment is irrelevant. Further information about radio and TV licence fees, concessions and exemptions can be found at www.rundfunkbeitrag.de.

Separation of waste

In Germany, waste is carefully separated. The correct separation of waste reduces the impact on the environment and valuable resources can be reclaimed. Recyclable materials such as paper, glass etc. are therefore collected separately and taken for recycling. The collection of these recyclable materials is free of charge and also reduces costs for each individual household.

➤ Separation of waste in Chemnitz

In residential areas there are containers for glass, which have brown, green and white openings. Glass jars and bottles must be inserted into these containers according to their colour.

In some places there are also containers for paper and cardboard and for discarded textiles (old clothes and shoes).

Every inhabited property is included in the waste collection system. The residents use the waste containers in front of their house or block to dispose of their waste.



Did you know

... that Chemnitz is a very green city?

Of the total area amounting to around 22,000 hectares, 15.7 % is made up of woodlands and 8.3 % of parks and other recreational areas. Another 39.6 % is made up of agricultural land.

Blue bin for paper and cardboard	Black bin for residual waste	Yellow bin/ Yellow sack for light packaging	Brown bin for organic waste
			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • newspapers • catalogues • magazines • flour bags • old writing pads • empty cardboard boxes • envelopes ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ash • sweepings • vacuum cleaner bags • pencil shavings • candle stumps • waste wallpaper • light bulbs ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • yoghurt pots • margarine pots • chocolate wrapping foil • washing-up liquid bottles • food tins • aluminium tubes • screw-on tops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • leaves • shrub cuttings • potting soil • vegetable peelings • lawn clippings • teabags • wilted cut flowers ...

The lids of the waste bins must always be closed to prevent unpleasant odours.

Batteries, energy-saving light bulbs, electrical and electronic devices (e.g. televisions and radios) and old furniture can be handed in at the municipal recycling centres (“städtische Wertstoffhöfe”) during the following opening hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	8 am – 6 pm
Wednesday	10 am – 8 pm
Saturday	7 am – 3 pm

These recycling centres are located at:
 Blankenburgstraße 62, Jägerschlößchenstraße 15 a, Kalkstraße 47,
 Straße Usti nad Labem 30, Weißer Weg.

Information about waste collection in Chemnitz can be obtained by calling the waste advice centre at 0371 4095-102 or from the website of the municipal waste collection and cleansing department of the City of Chemnitz at www.ASR-Chemnitz.de.

(Source: ASR)

Did you know

... that the burning of waste outside the approved facilities is prohibited?

Important phone numbers

Police:	110
Fire and ambulance services:	112
Citizens' service telephone:	115
Women's emergency service (for women and girls who have suffered rape or sexual abuse):	0371 4014075
Crisis counselling service:	0800 1110111 oder 0800 1110222
Children's and adolescents' emergency service:	0371 300455
Intervention and coordination office for cases of domestic violence and stalking:	0371 9185354
Victims' counselling service RAA Sachsen:	0371 4819451
Medical emergency service:	116117
Poisoning emergency service:	0361 730730

Did you know

... that the Karl Marx Monument in the centre of Chemnitz is the second-largest freestanding sculpture of a head in the world after that of the Egyptian sphinx?

➤ Checklist – first steps after your arrival in Chemnitz

- Register at the relevant registration office (Meldebehörde) within two weeks after moving into a flat or house
- Register at the office for foreigners' affairs (Ausländerbehörde) to clarify any matters regarding residence
- Register at your selected health insurance company (Krankenkasse)
- Open a bank account

If necessary

- Register your children at school and/or kindergarten
- Register at the job centre (Jobcenter) to apply for maintenance benefits
- Register at the social welfare office (Sozialamt) to apply for basic security provision, for persons aged over 65
- Pensions office – only for persons aged over 65
- Register for the payment of licence fees (TV, radio, Internet – per apartment)
- Re-register your vehicle
- Convert your driving licence

➤ CONTACT

Stadt Chemnitz – Sozialamt (Social Welfare Office)

Annaberger Straße 93

09120 Chemnitz

Tel.: 0371 488-5001

Fax: 0371 488-5099

Email: sozialamt@stadt-chemnitz.de

www.chemnitz.de