



January 2025

Information about the Opportunity Card

Note: All information is based on findings and experiences of the Embassy at the time of writing. Despite all care, no guarantee can be given for completeness and accuracy.

Kindly note that the Visa Section of the German Embassy in Budapest does not offer consultation by phone. Please contact the Embassy via E-mail.

General Information

The **Opportunity Card** (available from 1 June 2024) is a new feature in the German Residence Act allowing eligible people to come to Germany to look for a job. Besides the job research, successful applicants can also take part in additional trainings for the recognition of their foreign professional qualifications in Germany.

There are two ways to obtain the **Opportunity Card**:

1. Third-country nationals who can prove full equivalence of their foreign qualification and are thus considered to be skilled workers can receive an Opportunity Card without any other special requirements but providing evidence that they can support themselves.
2. All other applicants have to provide a proof that they have completed a degree from a foreign university, or an at least two-year vocational qualification (both of which need to be officially recognised by the country in which they were completed) or a vocational qualification issued by one of the German Chambers of Commerce abroad. In addition, applicants need to have either basic German (level A1) or intermediate English skills (level B2). If these requirements are met, varying numbers of points can be collected for criteria such as recognition of the qualifications in Germany, language skills, professional experience, age and links with Germany, as well as an eligible civil partner or spouse who is accompanying the applicant. Applicants need at least 6 points to be granted the Opportunity Card.

The **Opportunity Card** is issued first of all for a maximum of one year, provided you can support yourself for this period. It can be prolonged, and during your time looking for a job in Germany, you can work on trial or work in a secondary employment for a maximum of 20 hours per week.

You can find out more about the Opportunity Card (including a "Self-Check") as well as general information on living and working in Germany here: ['Make it in Germany'](#).

Application:

The application has to be submitted online via www.digital.diplo.de. The program will guide you through the whole process.

Documents to be submitted at the Embassy:

- 1 completely filled out [visa application form](#)
- 1 current biometric passport photo (available at the Embassy for 2.000,- HUF)

- Valid passport with following requirements:
 - its validity should exceed the duration of intended stay in German by at least 3 months
 - it must contain at least 2 blank pages
 - it must have been issued within the previous 10 years
- Hungarian Lakcím (residence) card
- Valid Hungarian residence permit
- letter of motivation in English or German explaining the exact purpose, course of action to find employment and duration of stay in Germany as well as further career plans in case of unsuccessful search for a job
- proof of
 - proof of acknowledgement or comparability of a foreign diploma/university degree in Germany in form of a print-out from the database ANABIN www.anabin.de (1 copy) or
 - your qualifications (according to No. 2, see above)
- proof of sufficient financial funds, minimum 1027,- EUR per month of your intended stay (also see explanations below)
- proof of health insurance with coverage for Germany
- proof of accommodation in Germany, e.g. formal obligation letter, invitation letter or hotel reservation
- 75,- EUR payable in cash (HUF) or credit card (only Visa/Mastercard)
Cash payments in EUR are not accepted

Requirements for Proof of Sufficient Funds

One of the prerequisites for obtaining a visa for the **Opportunity Card** is proof of sufficient funds for the entire stay in Germany. In any case it must be ensured that you have a monthly minimum amount of 1027,- EUR at your availability.

When applying for your visa, you can provide evidence that you are able to meet your living costs by

- opening a blocked bank account. You have free choice of provider.
- formal obligation of a sponsor residing in Germany pursuant to §§ 66, 68 of the German Residence Act. A formal obligation can usually be obtained at the competent local alien authority or registration office in Germany. The formal obligation must cover the entire duration of the stay in Germany.
- A working contract fitting the limits according to the law

Other IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Kindly come to the Embassy at least 15 minutes before the beginning of your appointed time-slot and bring the already filled in application forms and all necessary documents mentioned above. If you arrive later than 15 minutes after the beginning of your appointed time or without filled in application forms or documentation, you won't be admitted and have to get a new appointment.
- The visa section reserves the right to ask for additional documents.

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