

Requirements for successfully starting a job or vocational training:

- **Sufficient language skills.**
- **Permission from the respective Immigration Office** regarding the vocational training or employment. See entry in your identification document: *“Employment only by permission from the Immigration Office. Self-employment or similar employment not permitted.”* (*“Erwerbstätigkeit nur mit Zustimmung der Ausländerbehörde erlaubt. Selbstständigkeit oder vergleichbare Beschäftigung nicht erlaubt.”*)
- There are many options for work and vocational training for recognised refugees (residence permit [Aufenthaltserlaubnis]).
- Refugees whose application process has not yet been concluded (temporary residence permit [Aufenthaltsgestattung]) first need to get permission from the Immigration Office.
- Refugees with permission to remain until deported can apply for **postponement of deportation due to vocational training (Ausbildungsduldung)**.
- **Approval from the Federal Employment Agency (Agentur für Arbeit)** for persons with temporary residence permits or permission to remain until deported.
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Refugees from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia (“citizens of the Baltic states”) do not receive a work permit (Arbeitserlaubnis) and therefore do not receive a permit for vocational training (Ausbildungserlaubnis) either.

Notes:

Sufficient German language skills can usually be obtained by attending an **integration course** or (for young people) by obtaining a **school-leaving degree from a school providing general education**.

The **integration course** is the basic first step for integrating into German society (see also Section 43 of the German Residence Act). It includes two parts: a language course (up to B1 level) and an orientation course with an introduction to German history, politics, laws and culture.

At the end of the integration course, there are two tests: The “German Test for Immigrants” (Deutschtest für Zuwanderer – DTZ), which measures language skills on a scale (A2/B1), and the “Life in Germany Test” (Test Leben in Deutschland), which tests the knowledge gained in the orientation course. If the participant passes the DTZ test at B1 level as well as the Life in Germany Test, he/she will receive the “Integration Course Certificate” (“Zertifikat Integrationskurs”) from the BAMF.

If the participant passes the DTZ test, but not at B1 level, he/she can apply to receive a one-time extension of 300 hours from the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF). The person can then take the DTZ test again.

There is a special integration course for participants who are illiterate in German: the literacy course with 1,300 lesson units. A placement test given by the course provider determines whether this is necessary. Furthermore, young people between the ages of 16 and 27 have the option of attending a youth integration course instead of the general integration course. This has 1,000 lesson units in total.

Postponement of deportation due to vocational training (Ausbildungsduldung): “Permission to remain until deported” means “temporary suspension of deportation” (Section 60a of the German Residence Act – AufenthG).

In order for the person to complete a vocational training programme (“qualified professional vocational training”), deportation may be postponed until the end of the vocational training programme unless there are reasons for exclusion. (e.g. “deportation cannot take place due to reasons the person is responsible for” [“Abschiebung aus selbst zu vertretenden Gründen nicht vollziehbar”] – the **obligation to acquire a passport [Passbeschaffungspflicht]**). It is usually necessary to **prove your identity**.

Qualified vocational training (Qualifizierte Ausbildung): Minimum duration of vocational training: 2 years

The residence permit can be extended past the two-year validity period if there is a continuing employment relationship.

If the person is not hired by the company where they are doing their vocational training once they have successfully completed the programme, they must find employment in the profession they were trained in within 6 months. After this point, the residence permit expires.

Refugees who **discontinue a vocational training programme** will receive a one-time postponement of deportation for 6 months so that they have time to look for a new vocational training placement.

The application for postponement of deportation due to vocational training must be submitted to the Karlsruhe Regional Commission (Regierungspräsidium Karlsruhe) through the respective Immigration Office.

Advice and counselling: the respective Immigration Office (Ausländeramt); Employment Agency (Agentur für Arbeit); Job Centre; counselling services from charitable organisations in Schwäbisch Hall; the Baden-Württemberg Refugee Council (Flüchtlingsrat) in Stuttgart www.fluechtlingsrat-bw.de
See also “List of addresses for employment and language-course providers”.

Guide for companies. Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Deutscher Industrie- und Handelskammertag, DIHK)
3rd edition, February 2017: DIHK 2017

Postponement of deportation due to vocational training (Ausbildungsduldung) – An overview

Status	No right to stay in Germany, obligation to leave the
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	country
Application for asylum	rejected
Permission to remain until deported is issued if	it is not possible to leave the country due to an obstacle, e.g. because of ongoing qualified vocational training
Duration of validity	for the duration of the vocational training programme
Extension	Up to 2 years if continuing the profession for which the person is receiving vocational training, 6 months if they abandon the vocational training programme