XIPHIAS Immigration

PROGRAMME BROCHURE



CORPORATE MOBILITY | GERMANY

Germany: company formation, investor residence and the EU Blue Card

Three routes into Germany, delivered by XIPHIAS with our Berlin partner, Nexus-Europe GmbH: a GmbH or UG with 100% foreign ownership, the self-employment residence permit with no fixed investment, and the EU Blue Card for graduates and IT specialists.

GMBH CAPITAL	SELF-EMPLOYMENT PERMIT	EU BLUE CARD 2026	PARTNER IN BERLIN
EUR 25,000 (12,500 paid in)	No fixed investment	EUR 50,700 a year	Nexus-Europe GmbH

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Why Germany


Cologne Cathedral and the Hohenzollern Bridge


Frankfurt


The Reichstag, Berlin


Munich

01 GmbH with 100% foreign ownership; shareholders and directors can live abroad

02 Residence for founders through the self-employment permit, with no fixed investment

03 Settlement after three years for a successful business owner

04 EU Blue Card: EUR 50,700 in 2026, or EUR 45,934.20 in shortage jobs

05 Permanent residence on a Blue Card after 27 months, or 21 with B1 German

06 Spouses join without German and can work

The routes at a glance

Route	Investment from	In short
Company formation: GmbH and UG		Set up a German GmbH with €25,000 of share capital (€12,500 paid in to register) or a UG from €1, with 100% foreign ownership and no residence rule for shareholders or directors.
Investor and self-employment residence permit (Section 21)		Live in Germany and run your own business there: no fixed investment amount, a decision based on your business plan, and settlement possible after three years.
EU Blue Card		Work in Germany with a job offer paying €50,700 a year in 2026 (€45,934.20 in shortage jobs or as a recent graduate), and reach permanent residence in as little as 21 months.

About Germany

Germany lets founders from outside the EU own and run a German company outright. The usual choice is the GmbH, a private limited company with €25,000 of share capital, of which €12,500 must be paid in before registration; a UG (haftungsbeschränkt) can start from €1. The nationality and residence of shareholders and managing directors do not matter, but every company needs a German business address and articles notarised by a German notary.

Forming the company does not by itself give a residence permit. A founder who will live in Germany and run the business applies for a residence permit for self-employment under Section 21 of the Residence Act, which is judged on the business plan and has no fixed investment amount. We deliver Germany company formation with our Berlin partner, Nexus-Europe GmbH.

Company formation: GmbH and UG



Set up a German GmbH with €25,000 of share capital (€12,500 paid in to register) or a UG from €1, with 100% foreign ownership and no residence rule for shareholders or directors.

Key benefits

- 100% foreign ownership, with no nationality or residence rule for shareholders or managing directors.
- Limited liability: the company's assets, not your personal assets, answer for its debts.

- A German company trades across the EU single market.
- A UG can be started from €1 and converted into a GmbH later.
- Corporate tax is set to fall by one point a year from 2028, to 10% from 2032, under a law passed in July 2025.
- The company can be the base for a residence permit for self-employment, if your business plan meets the test.

Requirements

- At least one shareholder and one managing director (they can be the same person).
- A German business address.
- Articles of association notarised by a German notary.
- Share capital paid in: at least €12,500 for a GmbH, or the full amount for a UG.
- Valid passports; for a company shareholder, an apostilled or legalised register extract with a German translation.

Costs and government fees

Item	Amount	Notes
Notary, single-shareholder GmbH with €25,000 capital	EUR 230	Chamber of Commerce estimate, plus expenses and VAT. The exact fee is set by the notary fee law (GNotKG) and rises with more shareholders, directors or capital.
Trade registration (Gewerbeanmeldung)	EUR 20	About €20 to €65 depending on the city.
Transparency Register, yearly	EUR 19.8	Plus VAT.
Schengen visa for formation trips	EUR 90	Covers visits to sign and set up, not working in Germany.

Points to note

- Forming a company does not give a residence permit; that is a separate application judged on the business plan.
- Online notarisation is closed to holders of non-EU passports without a German residence permit, so plan a trip or a power of attorney.
- Opening a German business bank account can take time for non-resident founders; start early.
- The VAT ID arrives by post and can take some weeks, which can delay invoicing EU customers.

Investor and self-employment residence permit (Section 21)



Live in Germany and run your own business there: no fixed investment amount, a decision based on your business plan, and settlement possible after three years.

FAMILY MEMBERS

Spouse, children up to age 18

Key benefits

- Residence permit for up to three years, renewable while the business runs.
- Settlement permit after three years if the business is successful and your family's living costs are covered.
- No fixed investment amount: the old €250,000 guideline was removed in 2012.
- Your spouse can join without German and can work; minor children can join too.
- Live in Germany with visa-free travel in the Schengen area for up to 90 days in any 180.
- Years in Germany count towards citizenship, which is possible after five years with German at B1.

Requirements

- A business with an economic interest or a regional need in Germany.
- An expected positive effect on the German economy (for example jobs, training, innovation or investment).
- Financing secured through your own capital or a loan commitment.
- A detailed business plan with financing plan, capital needs and a three-year revenue forecast.
- Living costs covered for the first year, and health insurance.
- Over 45: adequate provision for old age (a pension or assets).
- Any professional licence your business needs.

Costs and government fees

Item	Amount	Notes
National (D) visa fee	EUR 75	At the visa application. €37.50 for children under 18. Paid in local currency at the German mission.

Points to note

- There is no guaranteed outcome: the permit depends on the authorities' view of your business plan, and they can consult the Chamber of Commerce and trade bodies.
- Forming a German company does not by itself give a residence permit.
- Applicants over 45 must show provision for old age; check the current figures before you apply.
- Taking German citizenship ends Indian citizenship.

EU Blue Card



Work in Germany with a job offer paying €50,700 a year in 2026 (€45,934.20 in shortage jobs or as a recent graduate), and reach permanent residence in as little as 21 months.

FAMILY MEMBERS

Spouse, children up to age 18

Key benefits

- Issued for up to four years, and renewable.
- Permanent residence after 27 months with basic German (A1), or after 21 months with B1.
- Your spouse can join without German and can work from day one.
- No age limit and no pension rule for applicants over 45.
- Change employer freely; in the first 12 months you only notify the authority.
- Move to another EU country on a Blue Card after 12 months.

Requirements

- A German degree, or a foreign degree recognised as comparable (anabin or a ZAB statement).
- Or, for IT specialists without a degree: at least three years of comparable experience in the last seven years.
- A job offer or contract in Germany for at least six months.
- A gross salary of at least €50,700 a year in 2026, or €45,934.20 in shortage occupations, for recent graduates and for IT specialists without a degree.
- A licence to practise, where the profession is regulated (for example doctors and nurses).

Costs and government fees

Item	Amount	Notes
National (D) visa fee	EUR 75	Paid at the German mission.
Blue Card issue in Germany	EUR 100	Paid to the foreigners authority.
Fast-track procedure (optional, paid by the employer)	EUR 411	The employer starts it at the foreigners authority in Germany.

Points to note

- The salary thresholds change every January; the 2027 figures are published by 31 December 2026.

- Indian degrees need proof of regular, on-site study for recognition.
- Permanent residence also needs pension contributions for the qualifying months.

How the application works

1. **Plan the structure: GmbH, UG, branch or subsidiary, and whether you will need a residence permit**
2. **Prepare passports and company documents, apostilled or legalised and translated where needed**
3. **Sign the articles before a German notary, in person or through a notarised power of attorney**
4. **Open the business bank account and pay in the capital**
5. **The notary files the company with the commercial register**
6. **Register the trade, the tax number and VAT ID, and the beneficial owners**
7. **Apply for a residence permit for self-employment if you will move to Germany**

Questions clients ask

Can a foreigner set up a company in Germany?

Yes. A GmbH or UG can be 100% owned by foreign individuals or companies, and the shareholders and managing directors can live outside Germany.

What is the minimum capital?

€25,000 for a GmbH, of which €12,500 must be paid in before registration. A UG can start from €1, paid in full in cash.

Does a German company give me a residence permit?

No. If you will live in Germany and run the business, you apply separately for a residence permit for self-employment, judged on your business plan, its benefit to the economy and secured financing.

Who is your partner in Germany?

Nexus-Europe GmbH, a Berlin firm working on business development and investment in Germany. They handle the German side of company formation; XIPHIAS handles your documents and the immigration side.



XIPHIAS Immigration

NEXT STEP

Plan your Germany move with our team

Tell us about your profile, family and timeline. We will confirm which Germany route fits you, set out the full cost in writing and manage the application with you from start to finish.

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CREDENTIALS

- Advising clients on global mobility since 2009.
- Named Best Immigration Consultant by The Times of India in 2022.
- Canada files handled by a CICC-licensed Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant, licence R516194.
- Australia files handled by a registered migration agent, MARA 1680615.

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