



## National Visa for work or job search in Germany “Opportunity Card”

[Section 20a + 20b Residence Act]

### General Information

The Opportunity Card improves your chances of making contact with German employers and finding qualified employment in Germany. Candidates from non-EU countries can enter Germany to look for a suitable job. The Opportunity Card is issued to candidates recognized as skilled workers or those who score at least six points using the points system. Proof of a permanent employment contract is not required. Opportunity Cards are issued for a maximum of one year. The card allows you to look for gainful employment in Germany, i.e., you can seek employment or become self-employed.

While you are looking for gainful employment, you are allowed to have one or more part-time jobs, totaling 20 hours a week. You can also do job trials for a maximum of two weeks per employer as part of your job search. The aim of the job trial must be either to obtain qualified employment, an apprenticeship or a qualification program.

You can find out more information about the Opportunity Card and about living and working in Germany at [www.make-it-in-germany.com](http://www.make-it-in-germany.com). The website also offers a Self-Check.

### Visa application checklist

**Please use the following checklist to make sure that your documents are complete.  
Please submit the documents listed below in according order on day of your appointment.  
Please do not staple any documents.  
Incomplete documentation may result in the rejection of your application.**

Original required	Copy required	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Fully completed and signed <a href="#">application</a></b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	One (1) recent <b>biometric passport photo</b> ( <a href="#">see specimen photos</a> )
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Signed passport</b> meeting the following requirements: a. Its validity must exceed the duration of the intended stay in Germany by at least 3 months b. It must contain at least 2 blank pages c. It must have been issued (not extended!) within the past 10 years
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Proof of address:</b> a. valid driver’s license or b. lease or c. utility bill
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Curriculum vitae</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Letter of motivation</b>

🔗 more information on following page(s)



<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Qualification</b></p> <p>To receive an Opportunity Card, you must either be a skilled worker (Option 1) or have at least six points on the points system in addition to a successfully completed vocational or academic training (Option 2).</p> <p><u>Option 1</u></p> <p>You have a foreign professional or academic qualification that is fully recognized in Germany. Alternatively, you obtained your university degree or professional qualification in Germany. Find more information at: <a href="https://www.kmk.org/zab/central-office-for-foreign-education.html">https://www.kmk.org/zab/central-office-for-foreign-education.html</a></p> <p>We understand that the ANABIN website does not provide an option to select Trinidad and Tobago. Degrees obtained in Trinidad and Tobago must be evaluated separately on the "<a href="#">Anerkennung in Deutschland</a>" website.</p> <p>Please submit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>⑦ Vocational training certificate or</li><li>⑦ German university degree or</li><li>⑦ Foreign university degree fulfilling information below (Recognition of the qualification)</li></ul> <p>If your university degree does not state the courses you studied, please also submit your transcript.</p> <p><u>Proof of recognition of the qualification (university degree)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>⑦ Printout from the <a href="#">anabin database</a> on the qualification and on the institution or if the qualification is not assessed as "entspricht" (comparable) or "gleichwertig" (equivalent) and/or the institution is not classified as "H+"</li><li>⑦ Statement of Comparability by the <a href="#">Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB)</a> or</li><li>⑦ In the case of regulated professions in which permission is required to exercise the profession, for example, doctors, engineers; complete list is available from the <a href="#">Federal Employment Agency</a> or the <a href="#">European Commission</a>)</li><li>⑦ Permission to exercise a profession issued by the authority responsible for recognizing qualifications or assurance of permission to exercise a profession (e.g. for medical professions: decision of the licensing authority in the federal territory, i.e. assurance of permission to exercise a profession and/or issuing of medical license)</li></ul> <p>More information on recognition: <a href="http://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de">www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de</a></p>
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Original required	Copy required	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Qualification</b></p> <p><u>Option 2</u> You score a minimum of six (6) points in the points system in addition to meeting the following requirements:</p> <p>a.) You have successfully completed vocational or academic training. It is important that the qualification is recognised by the country in which you obtained it. In addition, your vocational qualification must have required at least two years of vocational training.</p> <p>Please submit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>🔗 Vocational training certificate or</li><li>🔗 Foreign university degree recognised by the country in which you obtained it</li></ul> <p>If your university degree does not state the courses you studied, please also submit your transcript.</p> <p>b.) Proof of language proficiency: You either have German language skills of at least level A1 as defined by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) or English language skills of at least level B2 (CEFR).</p> <p>Please note that no proof of English language skills is required for English native speakers.</p> <p>The points system applies to you, i.e., if you are unable to demonstrate that you have a German qualification or that your foreign qualification has been fully recognised. To learn more about how to obtain points on the point system please use the <a href="#">Self-Check</a>.</p>



<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Proof of adequate financial means</p> <p>For both Option 1 and Option 2, you must have sufficient financial resources to fund your job search in Germany. Proof of financial means for at least one year and a total amount of 12,324.00 EUR (12 months x 1,027.00 EUR) must be submitted with the application with either:</p> <p>a. <a href="#">Blocked account</a></p> <p>b. Account statements of the last three months stating your name and address</p> <p>c. Formal obligation letter (“Verpflichtungserklärung”) according to Sec. 66 to 68 of the German Residence Act covering the entire duration of stay, signed by a person living in Germany at the local competent office in Germany. The formal obligation can only be accepted as an adequate proof of finance with the remark “nachgewiesen.”</p> <p>d. Work contract for a part-time job in Germany (up to 20 hours per week)</p>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Proof of adequate health insurance coverage</p> <p>Health insurance coverage is required at the time of entry into the Schengen area and for the entire intended stay in Germany.</p>
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### Visa application fees

[Processing fee:](#)

Payable in cash ( ONLY in TTD) and/or by Visa/Mastercard

### Completeness of application

The application is complete:

Yes  No, the documents/information indicated above are lacking.

**Declaration when application is not complete:**

I have been informed that my application is not complete. I am aware that submitting an incomplete application can lead to the application being rejected. I would like to submit my application nevertheless.

\_\_\_\_\_ place, date, signature

This information sheet has been prepared with utmost care. It is intended to provide a point of reference to our clients but may not be fully applicable to every individual case. If you have further, more specific questions which are not answered by the information contained here nor on our website [www.germany.info/visa](http://www.germany.info/visa), please contact the German Embassy/Consulate General in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, W.I.

# Instructions for using the anabin database

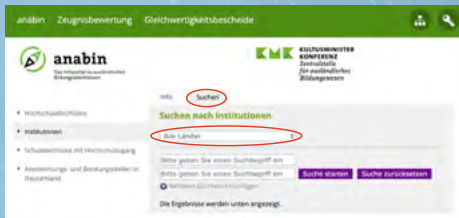
The Central Office for Foreign Education (Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen - ZAB) operates the [anabin](#) database, which provides information on the evaluation of foreign educational qualifications and universities. The database is currently available in German. This is how the search in anabin works:

## 1. Search for university (Institutionen)



### Step 1

You can search for your university [here](#). Please click on „Suchen“ (search)



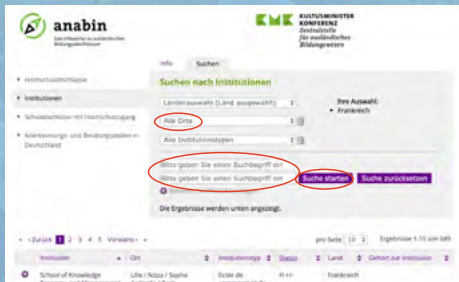
### Step 2

Please select the country in which your university is located and click on „Länderauswahl bestätigen“ (confirm country selection).



### Step 3

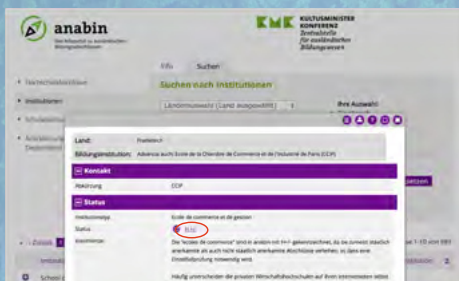
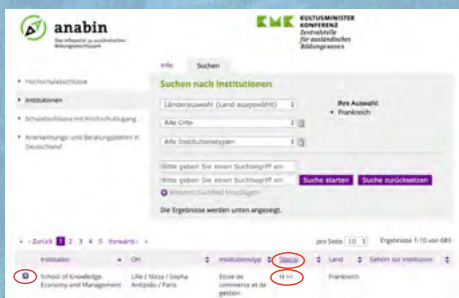
After you are shown all universities in the selected country, you can narrow down your search by selecting the „Ort“ (town) in which you obtained your degree. You can also use the search fields. One term or part of a term can be entered per search field. Any number of search fields can be added. Click on „Suchen starten“ (start search) at the end. Alternatively, you can search for your university in the extended list.



### Step 4

After you have found your university, check the „status“ of your university. To get the complete search results in the detail window, click on the purple icon with the white „+“ sign.

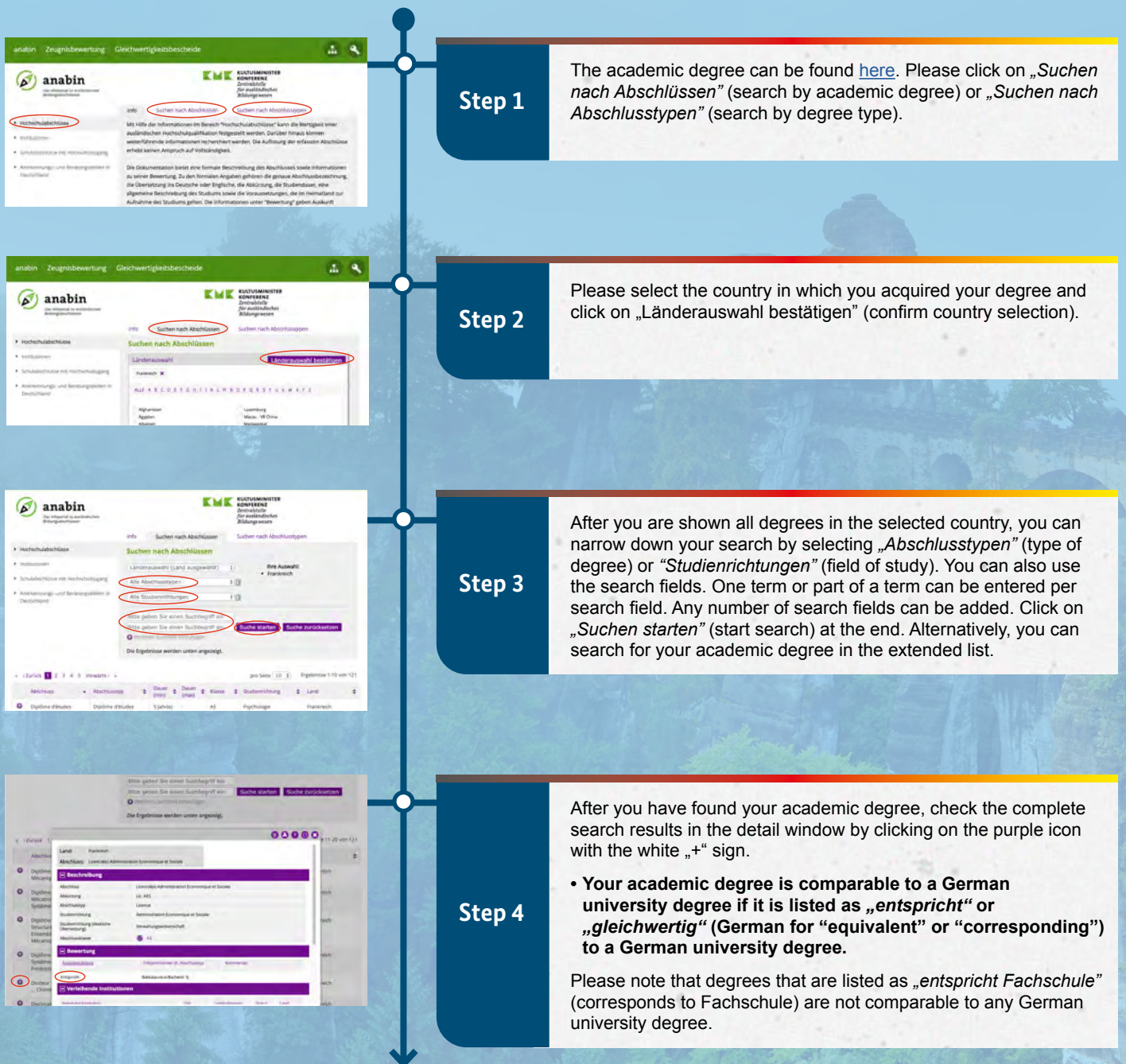
- If it is listed as H +, it means that the university is recognised.
- If it is rated H+/-, it does not necessarily mean that the university is not recognised. In many countries, the recognised universities are marked as H+/- since, for instance, the courses of study must also be recognised.



In any event, you must also search for the relevant academic degree. The search for the academic degree is also necessary for status H+ rated universities, since the degree must also be recognised as „entspricht“ or „gleichwertig“ (German for “equivalent” or “corresponding”) to a German university degree.



## 2. Search for academic degree (Hochschulabschlüsse)



### Remark

- It is necessary to carry out both steps, as it is possible that the academic degree is listed without reference to the university.
- The two print-outs of the positive results for the university and the academic degree can then be used together as proof of equivalency when applying for a visa.
- Not all foreign academic degrees or universities are listed in the anabin database. In certain cases, an individual Statement of Comparability is required.
- If the university in anabin is assessed with the status H+/-, the degree must be listed in the detailed display. Otherwise, an individual Statement of Comparability must also be submitted.
- You can obtain detailed information on Statements of Comparability from the [Central Office for Foreign Education \(ZAB\)](#) (E-Mail: [zabservice@kmk.org](mailto:zabservice@kmk.org))