



## Working at Universität Regensburg - Information for scholars from third countries -

Special rules are in place for employees from third countries. A third country is any country outside the EU, except Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

Third-country nationals can only be employed when they have a residence permit and only to the extent the permit expressly allows it.

A contract of employment or an extension can, therefore, only be issued when the correct residence permit is submitted **before the commencement of the contract**.

**Important:** Find out about German residency law in good time. We have put some information together for you below:

### BEFORE traveling to Germany

Find out well in advance if you will need a visa to be able to enter Germany. You can check whether you will need a visa in the [Overview of visa requirements/exemptions for entry into the Federal Republic of Germany](#) provided by the Foreign Office.

Most third-party nationals need to have a **visa** to enter Germany. Apply in good time for your visa at the German embassy or consulate in your country of origin. The visa can contain a work permit.

If you are able to travel to Germany **without a visa**, you will need to apply to the local Foreigners' Registration Office (Ausländerbehörde) for a residence permit within 90 days of your arrival.

**Note:** Visa-free entry does not give one the right to take up employment. It may, therefore, be better to obtain a visa containing a work permit even when you can actually enter the country without one.

The visa needs to explicitly contain the **work permit** for an employment contract to be issued.

Note: A **Schengen visa** does not normally entitle the holder to work. Such a visa is, therefore not sufficient to start your employment.

Please also register with the university's Welcome Center well in advance of your arrival. You can get a link you can use to register by emailing [info.welcome-center@ur.de](mailto:info.welcome-center@ur.de). The Welcome Center will advise and support you in planning your stay.

### AFTER arriving in Germany

After arriving in Germany, you will need to apply for your residence permit at your local Foreigners' Registration Office.

If you are living in the City of Regensburg, they you will need to contact the City of Regensburg department [Abteilung für Ausländerangelegenheiten](#). You can find the forms you need there.

If you are living in Germany outside Regensburg's city limits, you will need to contact the relevant local authority (Landratsamt or Stadtverwaltung depending on where you live).

### **Which residence permit is right for me?**

There are different residence permits you can apply for as a scholar.

If you are coming to Germany to do research, and first need a residence permit, it may be best to apply for both a residence permit and an EU Blue Card.

You can find overviews of the different residence permits on the websites of the [German Rectors' Conference](#) or the [Federal Office for Migration](#). If you need more advice, speak to the relevant authorities (embassy, consulate, or, once you arrive in Germany, your local Foreigners' Registration Office).

The final decision on which residence permit is granted is made by the Foreigners' Registration Office.

If you want to apply for a **residence permit for research purposes in accordance with Section 18d of the Residence Act**, your supervisor or chair will write an "Hosting agreement". This allows you to apply for both a visa and a residence permit for researchers. Please send the personnel department a copy of the admission agreement and your passport, via your supervisor.

If your visa or residence permit **is due to run out during your contract**, or if you are hoping to extend your employment past the term of validity of the residence permit, you must apply for an extension in good time. This is done at the Foreigners' Registration Office.

We note expressly that **employment is not possible if you do not have a residence permit**. After the residence permit has expired, you can no longer be employed.

### **Further information**

You can find further general information on the Welcome Center's [Checklist](#).