



British Embassy
Berlin

UK NATIONALS

Find the latest information about your rights to live in or move to Germany

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Introduction

This sums up the key facts and actions for UK nationals living in Germany following the UK's exit from the EU. **Stay up to date by signing up for email alerts on the Living in Germany guide.**

gov.uk/livinginGermany

Withdrawal Agreement

On 31 January 2020 the UK left the European Union with a deal, known as the Withdrawal Agreement. We are now in a **transition period** which runs until **31 December 2020**. During this period, UK nationals are still able to move to and between EU member states as before.

The Withdrawal Agreement secures, amongst others, the following rights for UK nationals living in Germany at the end of the transition period, as long as they still live in Germany*:

- Residence
- Right to work or study
- Access to healthcare, benefits and education
- Lifetime protection of pensions
- Right to bring existing close family members to live with them in Germany

In order to secure these rights you must apply for a new residency permit by 30 June 2021.

Residency

All UK nationals living in Germany must ensure they have registered correctly with their local registration office (usually called Einwohnermeldeamt or Bürgerbüro).

To continue to live in Germany after the transition period, UK nationals living in the EU on 31 December 2020 will need a **new residency permit**, which will prove the Withdrawal Agreement applies to them.

You have until 30 June 2021 to apply for this document. The German authorities have not yet confirmed the application process.

See our guidance:

gov.uk/government/publications/germany-residence-information-after-eu-exit/foreigners-authorities-in-germany

Travel and Passports

There will be no change to rules for travelling to EU and EFTA states on a **UK passport** during the transition period. You can travel as you did before the UK left the EU on your valid UK passport.

Healthcare

If you are living in Germany by 31 December 2020, you will have protected access to healthcare for your lifetime, as long as you still live in Germany.

If you are working in Germany, you will continue to have German health insurance and you can continue to use your Germany-issued **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** for travel.

If you are UK-insured (for example if you are a pensioner), you will have protected coverage for your lifetime via the **S1 scheme**.

If you begin a visit to Germany before 31 December 2020, you can use a UK-issued EHIC for the duration of your stay.

Pensions

If you are living in Germany by 31 December 2020, your **UK State Pension will be exported and uprated** every year for as long as you still live here, including if you begin to claim your pension on or after 01 January 2021.

Past and future contributions to EU, EFTA and UK state pension schemes will be equally protected for life, for as long as you still live here.

For information on **private pensions**, please contact your provider.

Working and Studying

Any UK national living in Germany before 31 December 2020, has a protected right to **work and study** here for as long as they still live in Germany.

Dual nationality

The UK has no restrictions on dual nationality. Germany only allows dual nationality in exceptional circumstances. If you have applied and met all conditions for **German nationality** before 31 December

2020, you will be able to retain your UK nationality when naturalising as a German.

UK nationals who hold dual nationality with another EU member state will not require a new residency permit. If you are a dual national you might, however, wish to apply for documentation to confirm your rights under the Withdrawal Agreement.

The German authorities have not yet confirmed the application process. We will update the Living in Germany guide when they do.

Driving

You should **exchange your UK driving licence** for a German one within six months of moving to Germany. Your local Bürgeramt will be able to advise on where you can do this.

You will be allowed to drive on your German licence when visiting the UK. An International Driving Permit is not a suitable alternative to licence exchange.

gov.uk/driving-abroad/driving-if-you-move-abroad

Professional qualifications

You should apply for the recognition of any **UK professional qualifications** in Germany before the end of the transition period. Recognition decisions made before 31 December 2020 will remain valid in the future. Recognition applications submitted before 31 December 2020 will be subject to current rules. Find out more:

www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de

The UK's exit from the EU does not affect recognition of **academic qualifications** (Bachelors, Masters, PhDs).

Further questions?

Contact us at: gov.uk/contact-consulate-berlin

or call us at +49 30 204570, choosing option 2.

*Throughout this handout 'living in Germany' refers to UK nationals who have exercised their freedom of movement in Germany before 31 December 2020