

Free Germany Move Checklist

The seven steps from an idea in India to your first month in Germany

This checklist is the short version of the road to Germany. It tells you what to do, in which order, and roughly what it costs. It is written for people moving from India for work, study or family reasons.

Everything here is free. The paid packs listed on the last page take each of these steps and turn it into a full working manual with forms, templates and office by office instructions.

What is inside

- Step 1 - Choose your route honestly
- Step 2 - Check whether your degree counts
- Step 3 - Start German now
- Step 4 - Money and proof of money
- Step 5 - The visa appointment
- Step 6 - Housing and insurance before you fly
- Step 7 - The first thirty days
- Official links worth bookmarking

Your timeline at a glance

When	What happens
12 to 9 months before	Decide the route, check your degree, start German
9 to 6 months before	Applications: jobs or university
6 to 3 months before	Offer or admission, money proof, visa appointment
3 to 1 months before	Visa decision, housing search, insurance, flights
First 2 weeks	Registration, bank account, tax ID
First 30 days	Residence permit, insurance card, German course

How to use this guide: work top to bottom. Each step says when to do it, where to go, what to bring, what it costs and what usually goes wrong. Rupee amounts are guide figures based on current German fees and exchange rates; the euro amount set by the German authority is given in brackets where it is fixed by law.

Step 1 - Choose your route honestly

Work, study or family

When: 12 to 9 months before departure

Where: Make It in Germany, the official portal of the German government: [make-it-in-germany.com](https://www.make-it-in-germany.com)

Watch out: Picking a route because it looks faster. The route has to match your degree, your experience and your money.

- Work: you need a job offer and, for most people, a recognised degree or vocational qualification.
- Study: you need admission from a German university and proof of money for one year.
- Family: you need the marriage or birth certificate, apostilled and translated, and usually German at A1 level.
- Opportunity Card: a points based search visa if you have a recognised degree and want to look for work inside Germany.

Step 2 - Check whether your degree counts

Anabin and the Statement of Comparability

When: 12 to 9 months before

Where: anabin.kmk.org for the database, kmk.org/zab for the Statement of Comparability

Cost: Around Rs. 20,000 (200 euro) for the statement, plus translations

How long: Six weeks to four months

Watch out: Applying for a visa before the recognition is even started. This is the single most common delay.

Where to get help: If your profession is regulated (doctor, nurse, teacher, some engineering roles), the state authority where you will work decides, not the federal database.

Step 3 - Start German now

Reach A1, aim for B1

When: From today

Where: Goethe-Institut in India, or an online course

Cost: Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 45,000 per level depending on the provider

- A1 is required for most family visas.
- B1 makes daily life, offices and doctors far easier.
- B1 after five years is one route to permanent residence; B2 or C1 speeds several things up.

Step 4 - Money and proof of money

Blocked account or salary

When: 6 to 3 months before

Where: A provider accepted by the German missions in India

Cost: Students must block the current annual amount, over Rs. 11 lakh (about 11,900 euro) for a full year, plus a setup fee

Watch out: Transferring the money late. The confirmation is needed at the visa appointment, not after.

- Workers show the employment contract and salary instead.
- Budget three months of living costs on top for the start: deposit, furniture, winter clothes.

Step 5 - The visa appointment

Book early, prepare completely

When: As soon as you have the offer or the admission

Where: The German mission responsible for your state, through the official appointment system

Cost: Around Rs. 7,500 (75 euro) for most national visas

How long: Slots are the bottleneck. Decisions commonly take several weeks to a few months.

Watch out: Incomplete files. One missing translation restarts your wait.

- Students from India also need the APS certificate.
- Bring two full photocopy sets plus the originals.

Step 6 - Housing and insurance before you fly

A first address is enough

When: 3 to 1 months before

Where: Student halls, temporary flats, company housing, serviced apartments

Watch out: Paying a deposit to somebody who refuses a video call or asks for money through a transfer service. This scam is common.

- You cannot register an address you do not have, and without registration there is no tax ID and often no bank account.
- Take health insurance from day one; it is compulsory.

Step 7 - The first thirty days

The order that works

When: From landing

Where to get help: Every one of these steps is explained office by office, with the forms and what to say, in the Germany Arrival Pack.

- Get the landlord confirmation (Wohnungsgeberbestätigung).
- Register your address at the Bürgeramt within two weeks.
- Open a bank account.
- Wait for the tax ID by post and give it to your employer.
- Confirm health insurance and get the insurance number.
- Go to the immigration office for the residence permit.
- Register for the broadcasting fee and a German course.

Your editable Word templates

Every template below is a real Word (.docx) file. Click the file name to download it, open it in Word, Google Docs or LibreOffice, and type over the bracketed parts. No login is needed.

Template	Download
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If a link does not open from your PDF reader, copy it into a browser, or open <https://indiatogermanyguide.com/download> and enter your order reference to get every file again. Every template is also printed in full on the next pages.

Official links worth bookmarking

All of these are official German government, university or public service sources, or well established non commercial services. No affiliate links.

What it is	Website
Make it in Germany, official government portal	make-it-in-germany.com
Anabin degree database	anabin.kmk.org
Statement of Comparability, ZAB	kmk.org/zab
Recognition in Germany	anerkennung-in-deutschland.de
Federal Foreign Office, visa information	auswaertiges-amt.de
German missions in India	india.diplo.de
APS India	aps-india.de
DAAD, study in Germany	daad.in
Study in Germany, official	study-in-germany.de
Federal Employment Agency job board	arbeitsagentur.de/jobsuche
Goethe-Institut India	goethe.de/india

Where to go next

Each pack below covers one stage in the same detail as this guide, with its own set of editable Word templates. The two services are personal work done by us.

Pack or service	Price
Germany Job Starter Pack	Rs. 2,900
Germany Study Starter Pack	Rs. 2,900
Germany Arrival Pack	Rs. 1,900
Germany Housing Pack	Rs. 1,900
CV & Application Review	Rs. 7,900
Germany Start Clarity Call	Rs. 4,900

All prices in rupees. Available at indiatogermanyguide.com/resources and indiatogermanyguide.com/services. Payment is taken in euro at the current bank rate, because our business is registered in Germany.

This guide gives general information based on public sources as of August 2026. It is not legal, tax or immigration advice. German fees, salary thresholds and processing times change; always confirm the current figures with the responsible authority before you act. Questions: hello@indiatogermanyguide.com