



INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT GERMAN

IF YOU WANT TO COME TO GERMANY
FOR A VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE

THIS TEXT HAS IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOU.

July 8, 2015

You can find more information about Voluntary Social Services online.

The web address is:

www.fsjkultur.de

The web-site is written in German,

But:

Parts of the web-site are in easy-to-read German.

Other parts of the web-site have been translated into:

- Arabic
- English
- French
- Polish
- Russian
- Spanish
- Turkish

This text contains difficult words.

Difficult words are coloured **blue**.

The words are explained on **page 5**.

To understand this text you need to know that in Germany, people who are not from the [European Union](#) are called [third country nationals](#).

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INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The following section contains important information for you if you are from a country in the [European Union](#).

This means you have a passport from one of these countries:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom

You do **not** need a [visa](#) and you do **not** need a [residence permit](#) to come to Germany.

You can live in Germany, work in Germany, study in Germany or you can do a Voluntary Social Service in Germany.

When you come to Germany you need enough money for food and for rent.

You also need health insurance.

This is important!

If you do not have enough money to live in Germany

You can get money from the German government.

This money is called [social welfare benefits](#).

In German it is called: [Sozial-Leistungen](#).

To get [social welfare benefits](#) you need to live in Germany.

That is why Volunteers coming to Germany need to register in Germany.

To do this you go to the registration office.

You tell the people at the registration office your name and your address in Germany.

There is a registration office in every German town.

You can ask your landlord

or someone at your [Voluntary Social Service place of assignment](#) where the registration office in your town is.

You can get [social welfare benefits](#) three months after you have registered.
That is why you should register in Germany as soon as possible.

Everybody has to register.

Even if you do not need [social welfare benefits](#)
you have to register.

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EXPLANATIONS OF THE DIFFICULT, BLUE WORDS

This text contains difficult words.

Difficult words are coloured blue.

The blue words are explained here.

- **Basic provision**

This is a certain amount of money.

You need to have this amount of money each month

To live on and pay for things like food and clothes

To pay your rent

In German it is called Grund-Sicherung.

- **European Union**

The European Union is a group of countries in Europe.

These countries are part of the European Union:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom

- **Foreigners' authority**

The foreigners' authority is a registration office for people who are not from Germany.

In German it is called Ausländer-Behörde.

At the foreigners' authority you apply for a residence permit.

- **German consulate**

The German consulate is an authority where you can apply for a visa.

The office is in your home country.

- **German embassy**

The German embassy is an authority where you can apply for a visa.

The office is in your home country.

- **Letter of motivation**
This is a text you have to write.
You write down
Why you want to do a voluntary social service
What you want to do after your voluntary social service is over
In German it is called **Motivations-Schreiben mit Angaben zu beruflichen Perspektiven nach dem Freiwilligen-Dienst**
or just **Motivations-Schreiben**.
- **Level A1**
When you are a beginner, learning a language **level A1** means you can say and understand simple sentences.
For Example you need to know how to say:
 - Your name
 - Your age
 - Where you are from
- **Residence act**
The **residence act** has all the rules about what you need to do to live and work in Germany
- **Residence permit**
A **residence permit** is a document to say that you are allowed to come to Germany and that you can do your voluntary social service in Germany.
In German it is called **Aufenthalts-Erlaubnis zum Zwecke der Erwerbs-Tätigkeit** or just **Aufenthalts-Erlaubnis**.
- **Section 55, 2 of the residence act**
This is a specific section of the residence act.
You have to sign a document to say you have read it to promise you are telling the truth about who you are and where you are from.
In German it is called **Paragraf 55, Absatz 2 des Aufenthalts-Gesetz**.

- **Seeking asylum**
Some people come to Germany because there is a war going on in their home country or because they are in danger. These people come to Germany for protection. This is called **seeking asylum**.
- **Signed agreement**
This is the contract you sign for your voluntary social service. In German it is called **unterschiedene Vereinbarung über den Freiwilligen-Dienst** or just **Vereinbarung**.
- **Social welfare benefits**
This is money you can get from the German government. You can get this money if you do not have enough of your own money to live on and pay rent in Germany. You can only get this money if you are from a country in the **European Union**.
- **Third country national**
People who are not from the **European Union** are called third country nationals in Germany.
- **Visa**
A **visa** is a document to say that you are allowed to come to Germany And that you can do your Voluntary Social Service in Germany. You need this document if you are a **third country national**.

- **Voluntary social service place of assignment**

This is the organisation or place

Where you will be doing your Voluntary Social Service

This could be:

- A theatre
- A museum
- A school

In German it is called **Einsatz-Stelle**.

- **Voluntary Social Service agency**

This is the organisation

that arranges Voluntary Social Services

and that takes care of volunteers.

The **Voluntary Social Service agency** helps you

if you have any questions or problems with your application

or during your Voluntary Social Service.

In Germany there are lots of different **Voluntary Social Service agencies**.

In German they are called **Träger**.

- **Work permit**

This is a document to say that you are allowed to work in Germany

and that you are allowed to do your Voluntary Social Service in Germany.

In German it is called **Beschäftigungs-Erlaubnis**.