



TRUTH. LEGACY. BEYOND BORDERS

GERMANY OPPORTUNITY CARD (CHANCENKARTE)

Client Factsheet & Programme Briefing

*A Points-Based Job-Seeker Residence Permit
for Skilled Non-EU Professionals*

STRICTLY PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

This document is prepared for the general information of prospective clients of The Veritas House Private Limited and is not to be reproduced or shared without written consent.

Germany's Opportunity Card (Chancenkarte)

A Briefing on Germany's Points-Based Job-Seeker Permit | 2026 Edition

01 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduced in June 2024, the Chancenkarte (Opportunity Card) lets skilled non-EU professionals enter Germany for up to twelve months to search for a job in person, without needing a job offer in hand first. Eligibility rests on a simple points system - candidates need 6 of a possible 21 points across qualification recognition, German or English language ability, professional experience, age and ties to Germany, though a fully recognized foreign qualification allows entry without any points test at all. Once a role is secured, holders convert directly into an EU Blue Card or a skilled-worker residence permit while continuing to work under a bridging certificate. This factsheet summarizes the settings in force as at August 2026, including the points table, work rights while job-hunting, conversion mechanics and Germany's fast-tracked path to citizenship.

02 THE PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE - 2026

 12 months CARD VALIDITY TO SEARCH FOR WORK	 6 / 21 MINIMUM POINTS REQUIRED (OF A POSSIBLE 21)	 20 hrs PERMITTED WORK PER WEEK WHILE JOB-HUNTING	 2 weeks FULL-TIME TRIAL WORK ALLOWED PER PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYER	 €13,092 INDICATIVE BLOCKED-ACCOUNT REQUIREMENT FOR 12 MONTHS
--	---	--	---	--

03 CORE PREREQUISITES - MUST MEET ALL

REQUIREMENT	WHAT IT MEANS
Recognized Qualification	A university degree or vocational training of 2+ years, state-recognized in the country where it was completed
Language Certificate	At minimum, German A1 or English B2 - higher levels earn additional points
Proof of Funds	A blocked account (~€1,091/month) or equivalent sponsor declaration or work authorization
Health Insurance	Valid travel or private health insurance covering the full stay

All four prerequisites must be satisfied before points are even calculated; the points system then determines whether the application clears the 6-point threshold.

04 GENERAL ELIGIBILITY - WHAT WE CHECK FIRST

 RECOGNIZED QUALIFICATION A degree or 2+ year vocational qualification, fully or partially recognized in Germany.	 BASIC LANGUAGE CERTIFICATE German A1 or English B2 at minimum, verified by an approved language test.	 PROOF OF FUNDS A blocked account, sponsor letter or provisional work authorization covering living costs.	 HEALTH INSURANCE Valid coverage for the full duration of the card, arranged before travel.	 PASSPORT & CHARACTER A valid passport and no security or public-order concerns on record.
--	---	---	---	---

05 THREE ROUTES TO QUALIFY

NO POINTS NEEDED Route A Full Qualification Recognition REQUIREMENT Foreign degree or training fully recognized as equivalent in Germany POINTS TEST Not required - recognition alone satisfies eligibility LANGUAGE German A1 or English B2 still required BEST SUITED TO Regulated professions and degrees with an existing recognition pathway	6 POINTS MINIMUM Route B Partial Recognition + Points REQUIREMENT Partial qualification recognition plus 6 points across other factors POINTS TEST Language, experience, age and ties to Germany all count LANGUAGE Higher German/English levels add points toward the threshold BEST SUITED TO Most applicants with a genuine degree or vocational background	SHORTAGE ROUTE Route C Vocational / Shortage Occupation REQUIREMENT 2+ year vocational qualification in a recognized shortage occupation POINTS TEST Earns a dedicated 1-point shortage-occupation bonus toward the 6-point total LANGUAGE Standard A1 German / B2 English minimum applies BEST SUITED TO Skilled trades and technical vocations in high demand
--	---	--

All three routes still require the four core prerequisites on page 1 (recognized qualification, minimum language, proof of funds and health insurance) before the card can be issued.

06 THE CHANCENKARTE POINTS TABLE

LANGUAGE & EXPERIENCE	POINTS	QUALIFICATION, AGE & TIES TO GERMANY	POINTS
German B2 or higher	3	Recognition or partial recognition of qualification	4
German B1	2	Age under 35	2
German A2	1	Age 35-40	1
English C1 or higher	1	6+ months' prior legal residence in Germany (last 5 years)	1
5+ years' professional experience (last 7 years)	3	Shortage-occupation qualification	1
2+ years' professional experience (last 5 years)	2	Qualifying spouse/partner co-applicant	1

Minimum to qualify: 6 of a possible 21 points. Qualification recognition (4 points) and mid-level German or strong professional experience (2-3 points each) are the fastest ways for most clients to clear the threshold.



BEYOND THE CARD - CONVERTING TO LONG-TERM STATUS

Once a role is secured, the employer and candidate select the appropriate long-term permit - typically an EU Blue Card for qualifying salaries, or a skilled-worker permit under Section 18a/18b. The application is lodged with the local Ausländerbehörde alongside the employment contract and qualification documents, and typically takes four to eight weeks to process. Crucially, a Fiktionsbescheinigung (provisional certificate) lets the candidate keep working for the same employer throughout the conversion, so there is no gap in employment.

07 WORK RIGHTS WHILE JOB-HUNTING

ACTIVITY	LIMIT	NOTES
Part-time employment	Up to 20 hours per week	Any employer, no separate work permit needed
Trial employment (Probebeschäftigung)	Up to 2 weeks, full-time, paid	Per prospective employer; sits outside the 20-hour cap
Self-employment	Not generally permitted on the card	Requires a separate permit category

These work rights exist specifically to let candidates prove themselves to an employer before either side commits to a long-term contract - a materially different model from a pure job-seeker visa that permits no work at all.

08 PROCESSING, FEES & VALIDITY

ITEM	DETAIL	GOVERNMENT FEES	EUR
Card validity	12 months	National (D) visa fee	75
Consulate processing time	4 weeks - 3 months	Residence permit fee (in-country)	Up to 100
Extension	Not extendable in current form	Qualification assessment, language testing, translations and health insurance are additional and confirmed at engagement.	

Germany does not publish a centralized processing timeline; timing depends on the responsible mission's appointment availability.



CITIZENSHIP IN AS LITTLE AS 3 YEARS

Germany's 2024 nationality law reform reduced the standard naturalization residence requirement from eight years to five, with a fast-track to three years for well-integrated applicants who hold C1 German and demonstrate community involvement or clear financial self-sufficiency. Dual citizenship is now generally permitted, removing a barrier that previously deterred many clients from pursuing a German passport. We map this timeline against each client's Chancenkarte-to-settlement plan from the outset.

The Veritas House Private Limited

YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER IN THE GERMAN RELOCATION JOURNEY

+91 87968 85510 | consult@theveritashouse.com

www.theveritashouse.com

Floor 17, Max Towers, Spaces, Sector 16B, Noida - 201301

This factsheet summarizes publicly available German federal migration settings as at August 2026 and is provided for general information purposes only. It does not constitute migration assistance, legal advice, or a guarantee of visa outcomes, and should not be relied upon as a substitute for individual assessment. The points system, work rights, fees and processing times are set and revised by the German Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Employment Agency, and are subject to change without notice. The Veritas House recommends clients obtain current, personalized advice before applying for the Opportunity Card. © 2026 The Veritas House Private Limited. All rights reserved.