



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.**

www.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*:

- Residency
- 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 should obtain a new residence document 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).

In addition, UK nationals living in Germany on 31 December 2020 should obtain a new residence document confirming their rights under the Withdrawal Agreement to continue to live in Germany after the end of the transition period. You have until 30 June 2021 to request this document.

See our guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/germany-residency/residence-documentation-for-uk-nationals-in-germany>

Travel and Passports

You can **travel to EU and EFTA states** on your valid UK passport until the transition period ends.

From 1 January 2021, you must have at least 6 months left on an adult or child passport to travel to most countries in Europe (not including Ireland), unless you are entering Germany and carrying your new residence document.

www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-germany#Passports-and-travel

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 can continue to have German health insurance and use your Germany-issued European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) for travel, including to the UK.

If you are UK-insured (for example if you are a pensioner), you will have protected coverage for your lifetime via the S1 scheme. This applies even if you only start drawing your state pension after 1 January 2021.

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.

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.

An International Driving Permit is not a suitable alternative to licence exchange.

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

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 residence document. If you are a dual national you might, however, still have rights in other areas flowing from the Withdrawal Agreement. We are in contact with the German authorities about how to assert these rights and will update the Living in Germany guide when further information is available.

Pensions

If you are living in Germany by 31 December 2020, your **UK State Pension will be exported and updated** every year for as long as you still live here, including if you begin to claim your pension on or after 1 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.

Professional qualifications

If you have not had your professional qualifications recognised, you can submit an application under the current rules until 31 December 2020. Recognition decisions made before 31 December 2020 will remain valid in the future.

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: www.gov.uk/contact-consulate-berlin

or call us at +49 30 204570, select 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