



## Information sheet

### Particularities for the establishment of a new business in Germany

#### Foreign citizens

Citizens from countries of the European Union (EU) require the residence permit EU to register a business. There is a legal right to this and it is issued in the foreigner's department of the respective trade office (Gewerbeamt).

There are special regulations on the basis of bilateral agreements for citizens of some countries such as, e.g. the USA, Canada and Switzerland.

Foreign citizens of other countries who still reside in their home country should make an application for the issue of an unrestricted residence permit that means a permit allowing the conduct of a trade, from the respective German Embassy.

Citizens of these countries who already reside in Germany must make an application at the alien's registration office to change the condition in the visa that is to get the blocking note cancelled in their residence permit.

**Note:** Legal questions regarding foreigners in connection with the registration of a business should be discussed with the alien's registration office.

#### Special Approvals

Trade businesses must be entered in the trade register at the local Chamber of Trade. This usually requires the person to hold a master craftsman qualification. Excepted from this are so-called professions resembling trade professions, but which also need to be registered with the Chamber of Trade.

If foreign citizens wish to carry out certain trade professions with a master craftsman qualification proviso, it is necessary to review the respective professional qualification. It is recommended to make contact with the responsible Chamber of Industry and Commerce. [www.dihk.de](http://www.dihk.de)

A special permit is required for restaurants and hotels, which is issued by the trade office after familiarising instructions by the Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

Some trade sectors require proof of special expert knowledge (e.g. milk, pharmaceutical preparations).

A concession is required for commercial transport of persons, e.g. with buses and taxis, which is available from the trade office, resp. from the office of the administrative district president.

In addition it is also possible that a special permit may be required, depending on the branch of trade. This applies in particular for gaming parlours, driving schools, real-estate agents or transport companies.

Industrial plants may need to be approved in accordance with the federal emission protection act.

[www.bmu.bund.de](http://www.bmu.bund.de)

Further useful links:

[www.invest-in-germany.de](http://www.invest-in-germany.de)

[www.existenzgruender.de](http://www.existenzgruender.de)