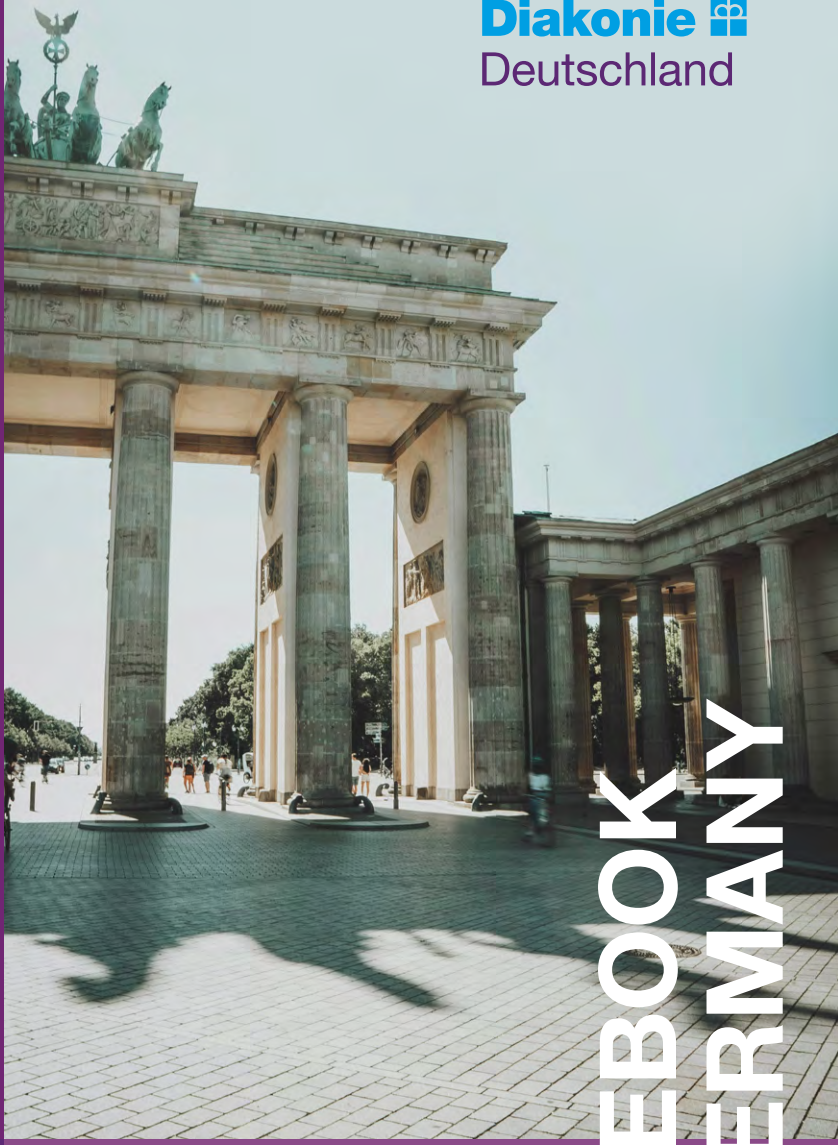
Diakonie Deutschland



GUIDEBOOK TO GERMANY

INFORMATION AND ADVICE SERVICES IN NIGERIA

FIRST STEPS: GUIDANCE AND ADVICE

Are you planning to leave Nigeria and move to Germany on a long-term basis? When moving to another country you have to organise a lot of things and also take account of legal preconditions.

This brochure informs you of the necessary steps to take in order to make your move easier. It explains where you can obtain cost-free information and advice, and also attend workshops free of charge. The brochure will help you to start preparing for your life in Germany while still in Nigeria.

We wish you every success with your preparations and a good start in Germany.

1

Visa and residence permit

People with a Nigerian passport need a visa to enter Germany.

Types of visas for business and private stays

You will need a national visa if you want to stay for a considerable period of time on business or for private reasons. In that case, you can apply for a residence permit in order to undertake paid work, to do training or to join your spouse or family.

There are different visas, for example if you wish
- to work: as a graduate, as a skilled worker with vocational training recognised in Germany, and as a skilled worker with vocational training and experience recognised in another country
- to study at the university
- to do vocational training
- to perform voluntary service, join an au pair programme or do an internship
- to be with your family.

More information and advice on the topic

What types of visa and rules are there? You can find information about this on the website “Make it in Germany”.

How do I apply for a visa? You can find information about this on the Diakonie website “Prepared and successful migration to Germany” in English, German and other languages.

What are the preconditions? How do I apply for a visa? What documents do I need? This information is available on the website of the German embassy in Nigeria.

The advisors in the project “Prepared and successful migration to Germany” managed by Diakonie and the Goethe Institute offer information on all topics related to your visa and residence permit. Make contact by phone, by email or approach them personally.

7, Anifowoshe Street, Victoria Island
Lagos Island
Lagos
Tel. +234 (0) 2014549515
legal-migrationNG@goethe.de
www.goethe.de/ins/ng/en/index.html
www.legal-migration.de/_en

German skills, German courses and German certificates

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A very good level of German is important for a successful start in Germany.

Frequently a person is not allowed to live, work and take courses in Germany if they do not have a certain level of language skills.

If you and your husband, wife or same-sex partner wish to enter Germany, you generally need to have acquired simple language skills (A1 level), but there are many exceptions. If you wish to start a job, a training course or a university degree you will normally need intermediate language skills (at least B1 level), but sometimes a more advanced language level. The vocational schools in Germany and many firms providing practical training, for example, recommend or sometimes require good language skills (B2 level).

What language level do you need for what purpose? And which certificate can you show to prove it? Information about this is available on the website of the German embassy and the website of the Goethe Institute.

Would you like to take a German course? When choosing one you are advised to check the quality. Teachers should be able to show evidence of their very good German skills or have a degree in German. The language school should fulfil all legal preconditions. What else do you need to take into account when choosing a German course? There is more information on the website of the Goethe Institute.

You already have German skills but no certificate? Then you can take an examination at the Goethe Institute to obtain a certificate.
www.goethe.de/ins/ng/en/index.html

Advice and support

At the Goethe Institute you can attend German courses, which costs money. However, the Goethe Institute also offers many activities free of charge. If you ask for advice you will, for example, receive information about how well you are progressing and preparing for your exams. In training classes you will learn a lot about Germany or practise talking German with one another. You will get feedback about your current language skills and can find out about the German examinations. In addition, you can borrow materials to help you prepare for the exam. You receive tips from the teachers who have often conducted examinations. Perhaps they will even practise certain parts of the examination with you.
www.goethe.de/ins/ng/en/spr/kur.html

More offerings

Would you like to hear more about Germany and improve your German? The website "Mein Weg nach Deutschland" offers informative texts in 30 languages – also in English – about everyday life and work in Germany. In addition, here you can find German exercises for language levels A1 to B2 that are free of charge.

Further cost-free media can be found here – from apps with learning materials to videos, podcasts and games to social media and community programmes:
www.goethe.de/en/spr/ueb.html

German courses and programmes for learning German with news or music for language levels A1 to C1 are also offered by the Deutsche Welle broadcaster.

On the "alumni portal" you can get to know people who are also preparing for their move to Germany or already live in Germany.

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Information about everyday life and work

What does living and working in Germany involve? What do you have to know about the German system of vocational training and university education? Arrange for some individual advice if you want to prepare properly.

Information about work

Would you like to know more about working life, or about employment opportunities in Germany? Then take a look at the website "Make it in Germany".

What information and prerequisites are important for working in Germany?
www.legal-migration.de/_en/vocational-training-and-work

There are different ways of looking for vacant positions in Germany, for example, through the websites of local authorities and private job fairs. There you will find replies to questions around the topic of work.
www.arbeitsagentur.de/en

Tips and training for applications and interviews are also offered by the Goethe Institute.
www.goethe.de/de/spr/ueb/daa/all/db0/db1.html
www.goethe.de/prj/mwd/en/deutschueben/arbeitssuche/bewerbung.html

Information on vocational training and university education

State-recognised vocational training usually takes between 2 and 4 years. The trainees learn theory in a vocational school and gain practical experience on the job. There are different ways of doing vocational training. You will find full information on Diakonie's website "Prepared and successful migration to Germany".

Information about vocational training

The Federal Employment Agency and website "Make it in Germany" and https://abi.de offer information on various trades and jobs.

Information on university education in Germany

Would you like to study in Germany? Diakonie's website "Prepared and successful migration to Germany" gives information on the visa and residence permit needed for taking a university course.

What universities are there in Germany? What prerequisites do I have to meet? The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) gives information about this in advice sessions and at events.

The website "Study in Germany – Land of Ideas" also provides information for people interested in taking a university course.

Where can I have my language certificate recognised for a university course? The Goethe Institute gives information about this on its website.

Advice and support

There are various advice offices and support options on the topics of life, work, training and university courses in Germany.

Prepared and successful migration to Germany – pre-departure advice on migration (Diakonie/Goethe Institute Nigeria):

The experts in the project “Prepared and successful migration to Germany” managed by Diakonie and the Goethe Institute offer individual advice on:

- preparing for **integration** into society and the employment market
- assistance with the **recognition of vocational qualifications**
- successfully **integrating your family or children in the educational system**
- **financial security/health**
- protection from dubious offers, exploitation at work, and other kinds of dependencies

7, Anifowoshe Street, Victoria Island
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Living and Working in Germany (Goethe Institute)

The advisors offer support and information, as follows:

- advice on working in Germany
- information events about life and work
- training on how to make applications
- online workshop “Mit Deutsch in den Beruf” to learn enough German to work
- Deutschlandheft, a German booklet with general information and tips for further reading. You will also find useful words and phrases for everyday life in Germany
- a German course with free exercises to help you take your first steps in Germany

info-lagos@goethe.de
www.goethe.de/ins/ng/en/index.html

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Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

On behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH with its Centres for Migration and Development (ZME) supports people who have returned to Nigeria or would like to go to Germany. GIZ's Nigerian-German Centre for Migration and Development (NGC) refers you for advice to the Migrant Resource Centres in Abuja, Benin City and Lagos.

www.nelex.gov.ng/migrant-centre
www.startfinder.de/en/advisory-centre/nigeria

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Recognition of vocational qualifications earned in other countries

Precondition for recognition

You have earned a school leaving certificate, a university degree or a vocational qualification in Nigeria and would like to have it recognised? The most important information is given below.

Proof that you have a university degree

You can check whether your non-German qualification is counted as an academic university degree in Germany by consulting a database for the recognition of degrees and academic vocational qualifications.
If the exercise of the trade or profession is only admissible with special permission you will need to obtain additional recognition of your qualifications from the competent institution.

There are professions in which you can only work if your qualifications are recognised. These are called regulated professions. They include, for example, doctors, nurses, or teachers in a state school. The employment agency gives information about regulated professions.

Full information around the topic of recognition of vocational and professional qualifications is available on www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/en/index.php

The result of recognition procedures is very individual and a lot of factors need to be considered. You will only find the most appropriate way forward in a personal advice session.

Advice and contact centres

The advisors in the project “Prepared and successful migration to Germany” run by Diakonie and the Goethe Institute will support you. They work closely with the responsible institutions in Germany. You are welcome to contact them by telephone, email or in person.

Contact
7, Anifowoshe Street, Victoria Island
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Lagos
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www.goethe.de/ins/ng/en/index.html

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Arriving in Germany

Have you just arrived in Germany? Then, in the first few days, you have to apply for your residence permit from the immigration department (Ausländerbehörde) and register in the area where you are living. Have you any questions? There are organisations that will help you free of charge and keep the matter confidential.

Advice and support

Migration advice

There are many migration advisory centres in the different regions of Germany. The one responsible for you is in the region in which you would like to live later. If you are an adult, the Migration Counselling for Adult Immigrants is responsible for you. If you are under 28, Youth Migration Services will take care of your concerns. Migration Counselling for Adult Immigrants (MBE) and Youth Migration Services (JMD) give advice on topics related to residence permits and everyday life.

On the website of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees you will find your local advisory centre.

Migration Counselling for Adult Immigrants (MBE) and Youth Migration Services (JMD) also offer online advice sessions.
www.migrationsberatung.org/en/migration-counselling-online (for adults)
www.jugendmigrationsdienste.de/en (for young people up to the age of 27)

Goethe Institute info-houses and welcome coaches

Welcome coaches will support you on arrival in Germany. They organise information events, (online) seminars and workshops on the topic of living and working in Germany. You will find the welcome coaches at six Goethe Institutes in Germany and at the Goethe Institute's info-houses.

The info-houses are in 50 towns and cities in Germany. There you can also find out about living and working in Germany and practise your German. You can hear about local options, attend events and get to know other people. The info-houses are in public institutions, e.g. in local authority facilities, libraries and adult education centres (Volkshochschulen).

The Regional Welcome Centers offer advice and support for professionals and their families.
www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/service/advisory-contact-services/in-germany

Anti-discrimination centres provide support regarding discrimination issues.
www.antidiskriminierungsstelle.de/EN/homepage/homepage-node.html

An overview of advisory and contact centres, local government departments and German courses near you is available on the website of the Goethe Institute.
www.goethe.de/prj/mwd/en/hilfefinden/wichtigeadressen.html

Advice with differing problems

You can go to the advisory and support facilities of the welfare organisations Arbeiterwohlfahrt, Caritas, Diakonie, German Red Cross (DRK), Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband, and Central Welfare Board of Jews in Germany (ZWST). They provide advice on various topics, for example, **family and children, illness, debts, residence permits, everyday life, integration and insurance policies.**

The websites of the associations give information about advice and counselling options near your place of residence, for example, www.diakonie.de/informieren/einrichtungssuche

Further information

Leisure time

In many cities and towns you can visit museums and galleries, or go to the cinema, theatre or a library. Do you like animals and plants? Then you can go to the zoo or the botanical gardens. That normally involves paying an entrance fee.

Walking around parks and along river banks is usually free of charge and people like to meet there for a barbecue or to go swimming.

You can do sport in a sports club or a gymnasium. Have you got time and want to learn something new? Then you can take a course at an adult education centre (Volkshochschule) in your neighbourhood.

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Migrant organisations

In many cities there are organisations and associations of migrants. There you can get to know other people, enjoy activities together or use advice options.
www.bundeskonferenz-mo.de
www.damigra.de/en/dachverband/ueber-uns
www.bv-nemo.de

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About us

Ways to prepare for migration, and living and working in Germany

The project "Prepared and successful migration to Germany" advises and accompanies people wishing to migrate to Germany. Do you need information about this, or would you like to know how realistic your plans are? Would you like support in planning and preparing for your journey? Then you have come to the right place with this project.

The support already starts in Nigeria. The experts offer you individual advice and organise information events with general information about legal prerequisites and living in Germany. In addition, you can attend group seminars on topics about everyday life and knowledge about Germany. The experts support people in migrating to Germany and preparing for life there, for example, with visa procedures, applying for a residence permit, successful work-related integration, the recognition of vocational or professional qualifications, and integration into schooling, vocational training and tertiary education. They also provide assistance with societal integration and dealing with issues around the family, home-making, financial security, the health system and protection from dubious offers of placements and jobs, exploitation at work and other types of independence.

The advisors cooperate closely with the advisory centres in Germany. The counselling is independent and free of charge. The project is financed by the EU's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration, and Anti-Racism.

Diakonie is one of the major welfare organisations in Germany. Others are Caritas, Arbeiterwohlfahrt (AWO), German Red Cross (DRK), Deutscher Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband (Der Paritätische) and the Central Welfare Board of Jews in Germany (ZWST). Diakonie offers numerous support options and advice centres on migration/integration. It advises on financial problems, illness, family and child-raising matters. The Diakonie project "International Migration Social Work (IMSA)" supports practical steps in pre-departure services such as "Prepared and successful migration to Germany". In Nigeria, Diakonie cooperates with the **Goethe Institute**.

7, Anifowoshe Street, Victoria Island
Lagos Island
Lagos
Tel. +234 (0) 2014549515
legal-migrationNG@goethe.de
www.legal-migration.de/_en

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GOETHE INSTITUT

Other organisations

The registered association **Goethe-Institut e.V.** is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany. It promotes the knowledge of German in other countries and cultivates international cultural cooperation. In the project "Pre-integration and transition management – ensuring a successful migration process" the Goethe Institute offers programmes on living and working in Germany. The EU's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) partly finances this work. Individuals wishing to live in Germany for work or private reasons receive support here in preparing for everyday life and work. Activities free of charge include training, advice and learning support.

7, Anifowoshe Street, Victoria Island
Lagos Island
Lagos
Tel. +234 1 454 9515
info-lagos@goethe.de
www.goethe.de/ins/ng/en/index.html

VORINTEGRATION UND ÜBERGANGSMANAGEMENT
Den Migrationsprozess erfolgreich gestalten.

GOETHE INSTITUT

In its Centres for Migration and Development, the **Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH** supports people returning to Nigeria and those wishing to move to Germany. It cooperates with the Goethe Institute and Diakonie. For advice, GIZ refers you to Migrant Resource Centres in Abuja, Benin City and Lagos.

GIZ works for the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in Nigeria.

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Further useful links

General information on migration/integration
www.bamf.de/EN/Startseite/startseite_node.html

Information on occupations requiring training
www.planet-beruf.de/schuelerinnen

Information on training for manual trades
www.lehrstellen-radar.de/5100,90,lsrsearch.html

Information on training courses for commercial and industrial occupations
www.ihk-lehrstellenboerse.de

Information for employees
www.aktiv-online.de/beroobi-der-kanal-fuer-azubis

Information on job-seeking
www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/working-in-germany/job-listings
www.arbeitsagentur.de/vor-ort/zav/startseite

Advice on recognition of trades and professions, and opportunities for training
www.netzwerk-iq.de/en
www.migranet.org/angebote/ratsuchende/anerkennungsberatung

Portal for neighbourhood assistance
www.start-with-a-friend.de

Different sources of information for new immigrants
www.handbookgermany.de/de

More links online.

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und Entwicklung e.V.
Caroline-Michaelis-Straße 1
10115 Berlin
T +49 30 652 11-0
F +49 30 652 11-3333
diakonie@diakonie.de
www.diakonie.de

Idea and text:
Maja Kliem, Alexandra Rehhorn

With content from:
Veronica Adeloye, Jeannette Bell, Jürgen Blechinger,
Augustine Ezejiofor, Isabelle Schunck, Anna-Lena Witte

English translator:
Elaine Griffiths

Copy-editor:
Janna Degener-Storr

Editor:
Sarah Spitzer

Contact:
Zentrum Flucht und Migration
Projekt Internationale Migrationssozialarbeit
Caroline-Michaelis-Straße 1
10115 Berlin
T +49 30 652 11-1457
imsa@diakonie.de

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Ole Kaleschke

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