

EMPOWER

Engagierte Migranten: Potentiale offenlegen -
Wege ins Ehrenamt realisieren



PASSAU MODEL

Manual

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2. Preface

As you are new to Passau, you might have a lot of questions, face uncertainties and might not be able to understand everything and therefore you would like to get support. It can be challenging to get informed about seeking refuge, asylum and integration and it can be difficult to find experts for specific questions.

This manual is meant to provide you with compact instructions and inform you about, public departments, non-governmental organizations and refugee support networks.

Our aim is to offer you a comprehensive guide which provides you with compact instructions, as well as informing you about, public departments, non-governmental organizations and refugee supporting networks. Equipped with this knowledge, you can inform yourself in order to adapt to life in Passau and its surroundings and integrate yourself better.

Overall, the aim of this manual is to offer knowledge about different support in the Passau region for a better networking and awareness on the diversity of support opportunities available to you from different organization/ providers.

www.fluechtlingshilfe-in-passau.de



Legal parameters: asylum and stay



1

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Whoever is seeking asylum in Germany and wants to stay longer, is setting off into a jungle of bureaucracy, laws, obstacles and deadlines that must be met. In this chapter, we would like to give you a brief overview of the asylum procedure and how to get a residence permit (Aufenthaltsgenehmigung). A fictive illustration can help you understand what could happen: Karim, 23 years old, is a young student from Aleppo in Syria. After losing the basis of his existence and contact to his family during civil war, he decides to flee to a safe country. He chooses Germany because his uncle and the rest of his family are already living here. He travels to Turkey on foot; he then takes the train from Austria and finally arrives in Passau. He is picked up by a German police officer and must sign up as an asylum seeker. Afterwards the police register him, check his belongings for dangerous items and ask him about his travel route. After a medical check-up, Karim is brought to the first reception facility (Erstaufnahmeeinrichtung) in Deggendorf.

Note: Which county (Bundesland) finally hosts a refugee is determined based on which country of origin is responsible and also by a quota system called "Königssteiner Schlüssel". This means that a refugee is not necessarily going to live in the same county he was first registered in. But for our example, we will assume that Karim stays in Bavaria.

Arriving at the reception facility Karim gets proof of arrival (Ankunftsnachweis) which he can use as a temporary ID. This document confirms that he is officially seeking asylum in Germany. This document allows him the right to state benefits, shelter and (medical) assistance.

§ Note: The essential needs of asylum seekers are determined in the Benefits for Asylum Seekers Act (AsylbLG).

It is not sufficient to register as an asylum seeker. In order to be granted asylum, everyone has to personally submit a request for asylum. In Germany, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) is responsible for these requests. The BAMF has offices all over Germany but mostly within the reception centres (Aufnahmeeinrichtungen). Therefore, Karim can make an appointment in Deggendorf at the responsible office and submit his request directly.

Note: The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) usually has its branch offices in the reception centres. There is no reception centre in Passau, so there is no branch here.

During this appointment, his personal data is collected by an employee again. Afterwards the employee will collect his police identification data including fingerprints and check if he registered as an asylum seeker in another EU-member state. As double requests are not allowed, he must not submit another one.

Furthermore, it is checked if Germany is responsible for processing Karim's request for asylum. The Dublin Regulation provides specific criteria in order to regulate which country is in charge for which case.

If you want to know more about the Dublin Regulation and its criteria, check the attached glossary.

For our example, we assume that Germany is responsible for Karim's request. Afterwards the most important step of the asylum seeking procedure follows: The hearing.

At the hearing it is examined if a person was persecuted before or has to expect persecution upon returning to their home country. It will also be checked, if their human rights have been violated based on a specific aspect such as their skin colour. Karim must explain his reasons for fleeing as detailed as possible because the hearing constitutes as the key factor for the outcome of the asylum procedure.

Note: The Federal Office is able to grant asylum in a rapid procedure without a hearing. The rapid procedure is used for specific groups with a high probability of being accepted as refugees.

Now we will talk about the output of the asylum procedure. Other than you might think, only very few get the 'classic' asylum granted. Actually, there are six different possible outcomes of the procedure:

1.1 Possible decisions 1

Asylum:

The protection against political persecution by state. The characteristics of persecution are described in the 1951 Geneva Convention on the status of refugee. Asylum cannot be granted to anyone who entered Germany by a third safe country (member states of the EU, Norway and Switzerland).

Consequences: immediate working permission, social aid, integration measures

Duration: 3 years, afterwards possibility of a residence permit

Refugee protection:

The protection against political persecution by state. Can also be granted to refugees entering through a safe third country.

Consequences: immediate working permission, social aid, integration measures

Duration: 3 years, afterwards possibility of a residence permit

Subsidiary protection:

In case neither asylum nor refugee protection can be granted, the right to subsidiary protection could be another option. This applies if the asylum-seeking person cannot return to their home country without fearing torture, inhumane treatment or death penalty.

Consequences: working permission, social benefits

Duration: 1 year + 2 years prolongation, residence permit after 7 years possible (if the person is still eligible to subsidiary protection)

Tolerance status (Duldung):

This refers to a temporal exemption of deportation. Anyone to whom it is legally or effectively impossible to leave Germany, will be tolerated. This does not equal a residence permit because the immediate duty of leaving Germany theoretically still exists. If either the deportation is suspended for more than 18 months or a voluntary exit of Germany is not possible in the foreseeable future, no residence permit can be granted.

Consequences: subordinate working permission after min. 9 months, social benefits but no integration measures

Now that we know the different types of decisions, we might say that Karim will most likely get refugee protection. In his home country Syria, he expects political persecution and threat to life and limb and liberty. "Classic" asylum cannot be granted because he entered Germany through safe third countries, e.g. Austria. After a regular 6 weeks stay in the reception facility, Karim has lived in a smaller group facility for four months in the county of Passau. Now he is looking for a flat to share in Passau because he wants to study again, like he did before in Syria. He attends language and integration courses on a regular basis and finds his way into his new life.

Note: If the asylum procedure is finished with a positive outcome (asylum, refugee protection, subsidiary protection, deportation prohibition), the concerned person is allowed to leave the group/decentral facility. In Bavaria even tolerated persons can move out under some circumstances.

1.2 Possible decisions 2

National deportation prohibition:

If none of the three options mentioned above apply, it will be checked if national deportation prohibition can be granted. This is an option, if the asylum seeker has to expect facing violation of their rights stated in the European human rights convention upon returning to their home country. A deportation also might be foreseen, if a considerable actual threat to life, limb or liberty exists.

An example would be if the asylum seeker is gravely ill.

Consequences: subordinate working permission, social benefits

Duration: 1 year + possibility of prolongation, residence permit after 7 years possible

Application denied:

All those who are not eligible to any of the aforementioned forms of protection, are asked to leave Germany within the next 4 weeks. Filing a suit against the rejection is possible which has a postponing effect. Those who do not leave voluntarily, can be deported. In special cases a temporal exemption from deportation is possible. Then a tolerance status or a residence permit (Aufenthaltstitel) can be granted.

1.3 Legal advice (Rechtsberatung) in Passau

Due to the great number of refugees and small number of specialised lawyers in asylum law, it is often difficult to get a professional law consultation.

For this reason, the Caritas organisation has prepared some forms on how to reply to messages by the BAMF. These Word documents can be requested for free, for example at the Coordination place Ehrenamt Asyl.

Here is an overview of the law consultation offers in Passau:

Kanzlei Haubner-Schank-Kalin

Free consultation for asylum seekers without appointment

Every first monday of the month, 15-17h

Adress: Unterer Sand 15, 94032 Passau

Refugee Law Clinic:

Law consultation for refugees, Students' association

Ask for an appointment via E-Mail


refugeelawclinic@srb-passau.de

Amnesty Passau

Clinics for asylum seekers by request

Phone: 0851 707 00

asyl@amnesty-passau.de



German as a foreign language

12

In this chapter we would like to inform you about offers to learn German in general and in Passau in particular.

In addition, we provide useful tips if you would like to help someone to learn German. We equip you with several links in order to study material and references to self-study programs which are free of charge.

2.1. What is offered in Passau

The range of offers for language learning support is big: some German courses are funded by the Federal Agency of Migration and Refugees, others you need to pay for. Besides that, some courses and language mentor projects organized on a voluntary basis exist.

The following initiatives and institutions offer language courses or mentor programs:

Berufliche Fortbildungszentren der Bayerischen Wirtschaft (BFZ):

the BFZ offers around 20 German and integration courses at the moment (see chapter 8.2).

Volkshochschule Passau (VHS)

offers fee-based language courses

Contact: Zweckverband Volkshochschule Passau

Nikolastraße 18 94032

Passau Tel.: 0851 95980-0

Fax: 0851 95980-12

info@vhs-passau.de

Initiative Chancen Gestalten Passau:

Connects language mentors and mentees at professional schools (see chapter 7.2).

Gemeinsam leben und lernen in Europa e.V.:

Connects language mentors to refugees and refugee children

Projekt EmPathie:

Cooperation between the language intensive courses of the state professional school 2 and the chair of school pedagogics held by Professor Doctor Seibert from the university of Passau. Alphabetisation and German courses for young refugees and migrants with (future) teachers and language mentors. The project serves as a basis for future internships and apprenticeships.

BAP- Berufsakademie Passau Fort- und Weiterbildungszentrum:

offers education for refugees and migrants

Universität Passau/ ESG

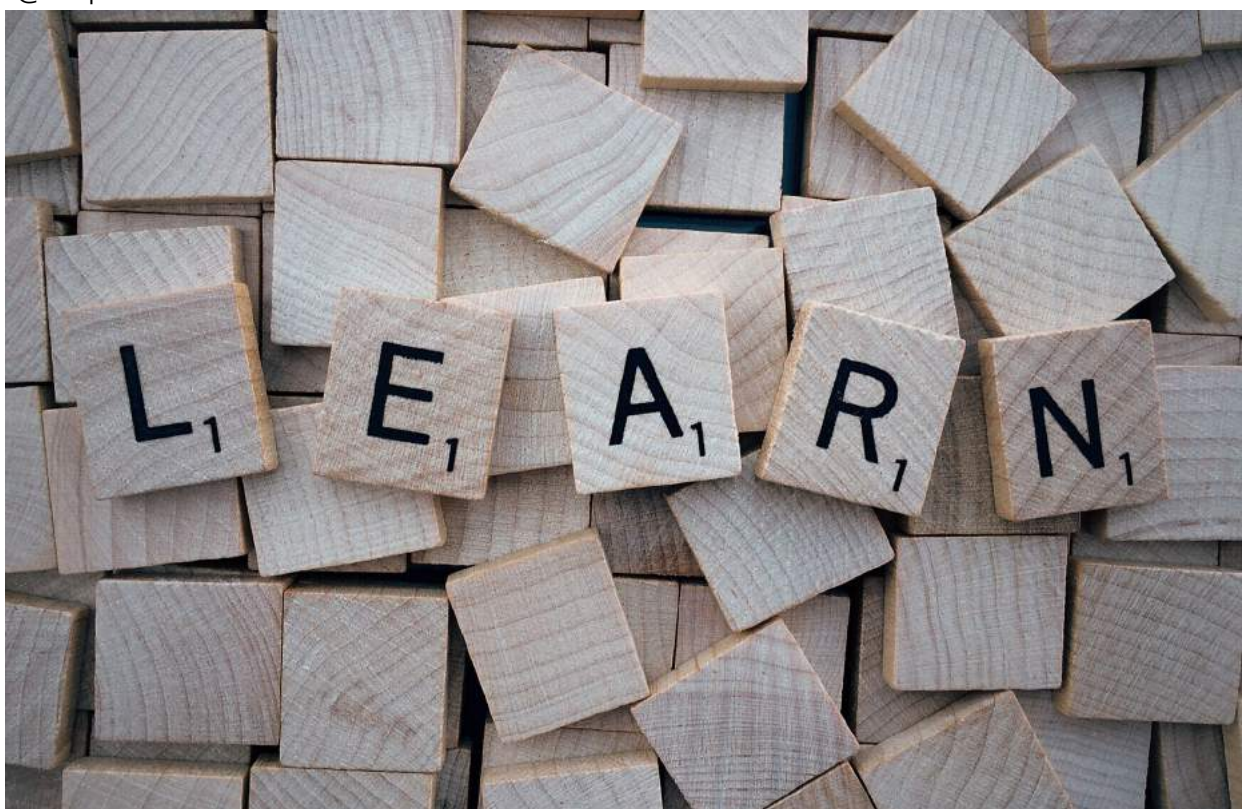
Protestant uni group offers free German courses and offers "Come together for German" as an exchange event, language mentoring possible

Contact: University chaplain Sonja Sibbor-Heißmann, usually found in Nikolakloster, NK 207

Phone: 0851 / 509 1975, esg@uni-passau.de

Refugee Programme of University Passau

offers e.g. language courses as a preparation to study



2.2. Free programmes for smartphone and computer to study at home

Vocabulary Trainer App (by Goethe-Institute):

Google playstore: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=de.goethe.vokabelTrainer&feature=search_result&hl=de
short link : <http://bit.ly/1Q8pG95>

App "Learn German for Refugees" by papagei.com:

Free App to learn German. 25 interactive videos with the 100 most important sentences to learn German from a visit of a doctor and everyday life to school system.
Apple Store: <http://apple.co/28USqoD>
Google Play Store: <http://bit.ly/292SwXk>

German Course App "Learn German/ DeutschAkademie" for Android):

the app offers over 20.000 grammar exercises
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=da.app.grammatiktrainer>
short link: <http://t1p.de/amek>

Memrise App (for iOS and Android):

offers different courses for A1, A2 and a vocabulary trainer
<http://www.memrise.com/courses/german/>

Duolingo German Course App:

Games to learn German for beginners and advanced learners
<https://en.duolingo.com/course/de/en/Learn-German-Online>

Projekt DaFür:

Offers free material, online moduls, vocabulary trainer and apps to learn German
www.dafür.saarland

Dict.cc Dictionary App:

offers translation from 51 languages, also offline.
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=cc.dict.Dictcc>
short link: <http://bit.ly/2uotojn>

Digital vocabulary book App:

integrated system to learn vocabulary
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=net.sitego.dheliTech>

Welcomegrooves free beginner version:

offers learning through music www.welcomegrooves.de

LEO Dictionary App Online Translator with app version:

Offers also definitions and explanations with its search results
App: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.leo.android.dict>
Short link: <http://bit.ly/29adl5A>
Website: www.leo.org



2.3 For learners: additional links to study by yourself

www.deutsch.info

Free online platform to learn German and practical information about living and working in Germany and Austria. Available in different languages.

Deutsche Welle (also on Facebook: “dw – learn german”)

Free online German course also for beginners, sort by different levels (A1-C): via ELearning on the computer, with videos, audios and podcasts – or classical with worksheets to print. Available in different languages.

<http://www.dw.com/de/deutsch-lernen/telenovela/s-13121>

short link: <https://bit.ly/1KZRCaU>

DeutschAkademie (Online Deutsch Kurs)

Online German Course with over 20.000 online exercises for grammar and vocabulary, over 800 hours of interactive German course online, exercises according to the European framework for languages. Available in English.

<http://www.deutschakademie.de/online-deutschkurs/>

German course for beginners

10 grammar tables give an overview of the German language and grammar; interactive grammar exercises in three levels. Website in English.

<http://www.deutsch-lernen.com/>

Kostenlose PODCASTS „Deutsch perfekt Audio kompakt“

– German to listen and understand. Podcast for better German in three minutes. Every week a new audio. Website available in German only.

<http://www.deutsch-perfekt.com/audio/podcast>

„Grüße aus Deutschland – Ein Podcast für Deutschlerner“

60 entertaining episodes of podcasts with PDF transcriptions. Website available in German only.

<http://www.goethe.de/lrn/prj/gad/deindex.htm>

SLOW GERMAN PODCAST

50 free podcasts with topic of German everyday life, for learners with basic knowledge. Website available in German and English.

<http://slowgerman.com/>

YouTube channel with pronunciation exercises “Deutsch lernen mit dem Sprachschaf”

Free videos for pronunciation, but also for vocabulary, e. g. Colours (with Arabic subtitles), numbers and also grammar

<https://www.youtube.com/user/LanguageSheep>

Free audio books

„Ohrka – Riesig für Kinder“

Free audio books for children. Website available in German only.

www.ohrka.de

“Vorleser.net – Literatur hören”

Free audio books for adults, children and adolescents. Website available in German only.

<http://www.vorleser.net/>

Courses and offers about integration and counselling services

Guten Tag

3

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Numerous professional integration courses and counseling services that are government-funded were established by now. Furthermore, there are also lots of voluntary offers to help you with your orientation and integration.

The following sections shall outline the already existing offers of integration:

3.1. Facts worth knowing about the government-funded integration course

The integration course is not only focused on people with a residence title in Germany but also on asylum seekers who are sometimes even obligated to join a course. If you are an asylum seeker, you should have a realistic perspective of being able to stay in Germany. For instance, if you are from Syria, likely that you will stay here because of the high approval rate. Further authorizations apply to people with humanitarian or personal reasons (e.g. an apprenticeship) or with a considerable public interest (§ 60a Abs. 2 AufenthG) or people who received a residence permit after § 25 Abs. 5 AufenthG. This includes people required to leave the country whose deportation got cancelled due to non-self-inflicted reasons (e.g. the state which is chosen for the deportation is not able to or not willing to cooperate).

If you have an apprenticeship, you are not obligated to join the course. You can join voluntarily as long as you have the necessity to join an integration course. If you are a foreigner who has got a job and speaks fluent German, you do not have the necessity to take part in an integration course and therefore you do not have the right to join.

Costs of an integration course

The integration course costs 1.95 € per lesson which adds up to a total of 195 € for 100 lessons. People who receive unemployment benefits (Arbeitslosengeld II) or social welfare or others who are not able to cover the costs, can apply for exemption. They might also be exempted from travel expenses then. Another option could be a partial refund (50 % of the costs) which also requires an application and a passed final exam after two years.

Where can I join an integration course?

In the city of Passau, there are several organizations that offer integration courses:

Volkshochschule Passau (community college)

Nikolastraße 18

94032 Passau

Phone: 0851 959800

BFZ Passau - Berufliche Fortbildungszentren der Bayerischen Wirtschaft GmbH

(Training and Development Centers of the Bavarian Employers, Associations)

Bahnhofstr. 27, 29

94032 Passau

Deutsche Angestellten Akademie GmbH Passau DAA

(German Employees' Academy)

Holzheimerstraße 8

94032 Passau

and:

Spitalhofstraße 79

94032 Passau

Phone: 0851 9662780

ebiz gmbh (youth and adult education center)

Dr. Geiger-Weg 4

94032 Passau

Phone: 0851-8517060

In the rural district of Passau, there are also various opportunities. Most community colleges (Volkshochschulen) offer integration courses. All available offers can be found on this website:

<http://www.bamf.de/EN/Startseite/startseite-node.html>

short link: <https://bit.ly/2HgYzuf>

3.2. General information centers and offers Social Welfare Work Passau – Asylum and migration counselling services

The social welfare network "Diakonisches Werk Passau" offers asylum counselling as well as advice for migrants. The counselling centres are contact partners for personal difficulties and needs and help the migrants and asylum seekers to cope with new situations and sort them out.

They are at your disposal for all questions regarding daily life in your new country, organize group and leisure activities and counselling in case of questions regarding the asylum procedure. The migration service helps you, if you are a refugee or person with migration background: They help you to search for a job, contact local authorities and also to cope with difficult situations in life.

Through their commitment you can get help in a lot of your life. In the following areas the help of the volunteers is essential:

- Language acquisition, whether through German courses or individual lessons
- Homework supervision and private tuition
- Accompanying people to doctors' appointments
- Translation activities
- Job and accommodation search
- Distribution of donations, e.g. clothing donations
- Recreational and group activities

If you are interested, please contact:

Diakonisches Werk Passau e.V. (social welfare organisation)
Nikolastraße 12 d

94032 Passau
Phone: 0851 56060
Fax: 0851 5606-160
E-Mail: geschaeftsstelle@diakonie-passau.de
Website: www.diakonie-passau.de

Asylsozialberatung Pocking (Asylum counselling)

Simone Schenk
Passauer Straße 34A
94060 Pocking
Phone: 0151 22866844
E-Mail: s.schenk@diakonie-passau.de

Migrationsberatung (migration counselling):

Marion Patry-Lepold
Passauer Straße 34A
94060 Pocking
Phone: 08531 910 130
Mail: m.patry-lepold@diakonie-passau.de

Jens Oestreicher
Passauerstraße 34A
94060 Pocking
Phone: 0151 54784127
Mail: j.oestreicher@diakonie-passau.de

Jugendmigrationsdienst (youth migration counselling):

Sandra Löw
Nikolastraße 12d
94032 Passau
Phone: 0851 5606150
E-Mail: s.loew@diakonie-passau.de

Lyubka Ivanova
Passauer Str. 43A
94060 Pocking
Phone: 08531910 131
E-Mail: l.ivanova@diakonie-passau.de

Caritas Association Passau

The Caritas association is a social advisory service in the area of migrants and asylum seeking people and offers you support, advice and integration counselling for all situations in life.

There are migration counselling centres for adults who stand up for integration and equality of migrants in Germany and provide them with information and guidance. The social advisory services help you to orientate yourself in your new culture and area of life and to cope with daily problems and they also give you advice and refer you, if you have health problems and/or trauma.

Fachbereitsleitung Migration und Integration (head of the department for migration and integration)

Höllgasse 24
94032 Passau
Phone: 0851 38366298
Fax: 0851 38366-25
E-Mail: info@caritas-passau.de

Asylsozialberatung Passau (asylum counselling)

Responsible for the shared accommodation (Gemeinschaftsunterkunft) Passau Firsiangut, Passau Rittsteig, Hauzenberg, Breitenberg Passau Maria Ward, Wegscheid
Horst Priebe
Höllgasse 24
94032 Passau
Phone: 0851 383 66 11
Mobile: 0151 72702525
E-Mail: horst.hriebe@caritas-passau.de

Responsible for the shared refugee accommodation (Gemeinschaftsunterkunft) in Griesbach, Kellberg und Ruhstorf:

Elke David
Höllgasse 24
94032 Passau
Phone: 0851 383 66 292
Mobile: 0151 53951831
E-Mail: elke.david@caritas-passau.de

Responsible for the shared refugee accommodation (Gemeinschaftsunterkunft) in Fürstenstein, Tittling and Passau:

Frank Trost
Höllgasse 24
94032 Passau
Phone: 0851 383 66 28
Mobile: 0151 44526355
E-Mail: frank.trost@caritas-passau.de

Responsible for the shared refugee accommodation (Gemeinschaftsunterkunft) Vilshofen:

Peter Vogl
Asylum counselling of the Caritas association in the shared refugee accommodation (Gemeinschaftsunterkunft) Vilshofen:
94474 Vilshofen
Galgenberg 10
Phone: 08541 9689837
Mail: peter.vogl@caritas-passau.de

Responsible for the shared accommodation
(Gemeinschaftsunterkunft) Salzweg:

Asylum counselling of the Caritas association in the shared
refugee accommodation (Gemeinschaftsunterkunft) Salzweg:

Mouna Sabbagh

Salzweg

94121 Salzweg

Büchlbergerstraße 1

Phone: 0851 98865889

E-Mail: mouna.sabbagh@caritas-passau.de

Responsible for the shared accommodation in Büchlberg,
Hutthurm und Eging:

Christian List

Höllgasse 24

94032 Passau

E-Mail: christian.list@caritas-passau.de

Asylum Café

The "AsylCafé" is a non-profit organization that supports
refugees in the area of Passau. It is supposed to be an addition
to and also to lighten the load of the voluntary refugee help of
the social welfare organization "Diakonisches Werk Passau".

In cooperation with the "Diakonisches Werk" an open meeting
is organized by the "AsylCafé" association every two weeks
in the rooms of the welfare organization. Asylum seekers,
volunteers and those interested in volunteering get together to
talk about problems and get to know each other while focusing
on individual and personal help. Furthermore, you have the
opportunity to get in touch with locals and speak German.

E-Mail: asylcafe@gmail.com

Changes Passau e.V. – student group

Changes Passau is an association that wants to help you getting
settled in Germany and to further integration.

The basic idea is to offer you (if you are in training and between
16 and 30 years) face-to-face mentoring by German speaking
people who are from the city or area of Passau and are about
the same age as you. The aim is to help you and others who are
apprentices to learn German and other things. Furthermore,
they offer you help with visits to administrative offices and
other challenges.

E-Mail: passau@chancengestalten.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ChangesPassau/>

Ways into jobs and education

4

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4.1. Access to the employment market for people with resident permit status and tolerated people

People with a residence permit status and/or who are tolerated, do not have the same access to the job market as German citizens do. If and to what extent you are allowed to work, depends on your residence title. Generally speaking the following rule applies: whoever is still under a residency obligation in an initial reception centre is not allowed to work. The minimum timeframe for this is six weeks and the maximum is six months. Asylum seekers with a residence title and tolerated people have to wait for three months until they can get a work permit from the authority for foreigners. However the approval of the employment agency is needed in order to get a work permit. A few exceptions exist, in which the authority for foreigners can issue a work permit without the approval of the employment agency:

- Vocational training

For people who have a residence permit possible after the waiting period of three months. Tolerated people do not have to wait.

- Internship, federal volunteer service, voluntary social year

For people who have a residence permit possible after the waiting period of three months. Tolerated people do not have to wait.

- Highly qualified people

People count as highly qualified if they have a degree from a foreign university or college which is equal to German standards and who earns 47600 Euro (precondition for the so-called "blaue Karte")

- After staying for four years

After four years of staying in Germany, people from both groups can work without the approval of the employment agency. The residence status in the past four years is irrelevant then.

For people from a safe country of origin special conditions apply. The appropriate authority will provide detailed information. Those who have a refugee status under legal protection have unlimited access to the labor market.

4.2. Information centres in Passau

Agentur für Arbeit (employment agency)

Another initial consultation office is the "Agentur für Arbeit" which provides counselling to people with a residence title and tolerated people. The job centre is responsible for people who have a residence permit.

The employment agency counsels about the topics of work tri-

al periods and development programmes. The aim of the development programmes is to discover the competences and the potential of the participants and to offer them further qualification, so that they are prepared for unlimited employment.

Apart from the regular job placement and vocational guidance, the employment agency of Passau organizes German and integration courses and extra-occupational measures in cooperation with local education providers. In addition they regularly organize employment days for refugees and asylum seekers.

Arbeitsagentur Passau

Innstraße 30

94032 Passau

Service phone: 0800 4555500

Contact person: Barbara Mayerhofer (refugee counsellor),

E-Mail: Barbara.Mayerhofer@arbeitsagentur.de

In order to coordinate their own activities the employment agency has set up a coordination centre for refugees.

Contact person: Hans Haugeneder

E-Mail: Passau.koordinierungscenar-flucht@arbeitsagentur.de

The job centre of the area of Passau organizes a group information event for recognized asylum seekers at which translators will be present. They also have a specialized field for recognized asylum seekers.

Contact person: Jasmin Glauert

Phone: 0851 8517645

Jobcenter Passau Land (job centre for the area of Passau)

Dr. Hans-Kapfinger-Straße 14c

94032 Passau

BAP – Berufsakademie Passau (Economic forum in the area of Passau)

The BAP is a further education organization which offers the educational program "Integration into the labor market" for asylum seekers, refugees and migrants. Their aim is to improve your German skills, to offer you orientation in the German labor market and to help you to prepare yourself so you can access the labor market.

Kristina Merckenschlager

Neuburgerstraße 60

94032 Passau

Phone: 0851 7208828

www.bap-passau.de

Wirtschaftsforum der Region Passau e.V. : (Economic forum in the area of Passau)

The economic forum created the project FAM in order to help refugees, asylum seekers and migrants to get placed into jobs, internships and apprenticeships. There are three steps: the selection of participants, their qualification and their placement. The FAM works in cooperation with the Agentur für Arbeit (employment agency) and functions as an initial consultation office.

Open office hours: Every Monday 2-5 PM, Building WiFo, Pas-

sau (Dr.-Hans-Kapfing-Straße 30, 94032 Passau)

Contact

Wirtschaftsforum der Region Passau e.V.

Ansprechpartner - Jakob Schreiner

Dr.-Hans-Kapfing-Straße 30, 94032 Passau

Phone: 0851 8819 9370 – Fax: 0851 966256 13

E-Mail: jakob.schreiner@wifo-passau.de

Website: www.wifo-passau.de

bfz Passau

The bfz Passau offers many German language courses and orientation courses for refugees and also courses that help to set foot into one's career.

bfz Passau

Bahnhofstraße 27

94032 Passau

Phone: 0851 956250

4.3. General information about the school system in Bavaria

Bavarian schools offer you different opportunities to graduate. Basically with every step of the school-leaving qualification, you can attend to the next higher level. All secondary schools enable a graduation from the so called "Realschule".

Level 1 - Elementary school

Elementary school (Grades 1-4): Basic skills in reading, writing, calculating and social competences. School enrollment is between 5 and 7 years. After 4th grade the children get a report card with a recommendation for a secondary school.

Level 2 – Secondary school

Middle school (formerly "Hauptschule", grades 5-9 or 10): strongly related to real life and preparation for the job market. It is possible to switch to "Realschule" or "Gymnasium" until 6th grade.

Possible graduations:

- Successful "Mittelschulreife Quali" (high school degree) after 9th grade with an exam. This allows you to transit into working life or start a dual apprenticeship in vocational school.
- "Mittlere Reife" graduation after 10th grade in the so-called M-sector. This gives you the opportunity to go to a higher level school

Realschule (secondary school, grades 5-10): provides general education and basic knowledge for professional training and offers various branches of education. After the completion of the 9th grade, you can enter professional life or the dual education system. After the completing 10th grade, you can transfer to "Gymnasium" or "Fachoberschule".

School of economics (grades 7 / 8-10 or 10-11): provides profound general education and basic professional training in

the field of business and administration.

After the completing 10th grade or 11th grade, transferring to secondary schools is possible (Fachoberschule and Gymnasium). Another possibility is to start a professional life.

Gymnasium (grammar school, grades 5-12): provides in-depth, comprehensive general education and prepares for higher education. Students receive lessons in at least two foreign languages. There are several forms of "Gymnasiums" which differ in their subject areas (music, linguistics, science, economics and social sciences)

After completing 12th grade you receive the general university entrance qualification (Allgemeine Hochschulreife). This allows you to start studying at a university or another higher education institution (Hochschule).

Fachoberschule FOS (technical secondary school, grades 10 / 11-12 / 13):

To attend "Fachoberschule", you are required to have a „Mittlere Reife“ degree which can be attained at "Realschule", "Wirtschaftsschule" or at "Mittelschule".

After completing 13th grade you either have the "Fachgebundene Hochschulreife" (subject-related entrance qualification) or the "Allgemeine Hochschulreife" (general university entrance qualification, 2 foreign languages required). This can be used to study at a university or a "Fachhochschule" (university of applied sciences).

Berufsoberschule BOS (higher vocational school, 11th / 12th class - 12th / 13th grade):

To attend the BOS you need to have "Mittlere Reife" and a professional training or a "Mittelschule" degree together with a professional training (entrance examination necessary). The training focus depends on the previous professional training.

After completing 13th grade you either have the "Fachgebundene Hochschulreife" (subject-related entrance qualification) or the "Allgemeine Hochschulreife" (general university entrance qualification, 2 foreign languages required). This can be used to study at a university or a "Fachhochschule" (university of applied sciences).

Level 3 (Professional training, University education)

Professional school ("Berufsschule"): includes grades 10 to 12 and 10 to 13 and provides general education as well as theoretical professional knowledge in the dual system. That means you work in a company and attend classes in school at the same time. Afterwards you receive a professional school certificate.

"Mittlere Berufsfachschule": In Bavaria, there are professional schools for a variety of professions. They differ extensively from professional schools in regards to conditions of admission, length of training, acquirable degrees etc. Possible degrees: Professional qualification "Berufsabschluss", "Mittlere Reife", "Fachhochschulreife" (by supplementary examination)

"Fachschule" (1-4 years): In Bavaria there are technical colleges, master schools, business schools, housekeeping and social care schools. Possible degrees: State examination / master's examination, "Mittlerer Abschluss", "Fachschulreife" (by supplementary examination). With a master's examination (Meisterprüfung), you can study at a higher education institution (Hochschule).

“Fachakademie”: The “Fachakademie” takes 2 to 3 years of schooling and prepares for a higher professional career.

Possible degrees: State examination, advanced technical college certificate (“Fachhochschulreife”, supplementary examination necessary). Having a very good overall grade in both certificates enables you to study at a university.

University and “Fachhochschule”:

Bachelor, Master, Diploma, State Examination, Doctorate

Further schools:

Schools for mentally handicapped children exist at all levels. They are designed for children and young people with special educational needs who need extra care, for example due to a mental disability.

Schools for the sick (at all levels): Schools for the sick teach students who are under medical supervision and need to stay in hospitals or other facilities.

Montessori schools (level 1 and 2) are not owned by the state but are carried by non-profit organizations. They have got the same syllabuses as state schools do. However, the students mostly decide at which pace and to what extent they learn the subject matters. Degrees: All graduation forms are possible.

Waldorf schools (level 1 and 2) are alternative autonomous schools and reform educational esoteric theory school. It is oriented towards an education that only focuses on the needs of the children. There are no fixed learning objectives and no grades until the senior classes. Degrees: same school diplomas as in mainstream schools, BUT: not always approved by the state.

- Boarding school
- secondary education (evening grammar school, college etc.)
- special schools (integrative comprehensive schools etc.)
- adult education center (Volkshochschule - VHS)

For further information go to:

<https://www.km.bayern.de/schularten>

4.4. Language buddies (Sprachpaten) by “Gemeinsam leben & lernen in Europa e.V.”

The project „Sprachpaten“ is intended to help children and young people in the city and district of Passau who speak little or no German. The association “Gemeinsam Leben & Lernen in Europa e.V.” trains “language buddies” to help kids with their language issues. The aim of the project is to enable them to get in touch with others at school and to talk to them.

The project „Talk with me: Language buddies for refugees“ is designed for adult refugees with little knowledge about the German language in the city and district of Passau. They are given the opportunity to engage in conversations with volunteers who are trained by the association beforehand.

4.5. Refugee programs at the University of Passau

The university's refugee programs are addressed to refugees

who want to study at a German university but do not have the language abilities to do so yet. Applicants should already speak German at a B1 level. In addition, the applicant should have graduated from grammar school (Abitur) in his home country or already attended a university. Only asylum seekers or people with asylum status can apply for the program. The program lasts 2 semesters which equals 12 months. It offers German language courses and further workshops and cultural activities.

For further information go to:

www.uni-passau.de/refugeeprogramme

4.6. BAP – pre-employment training for nursing education

The Berufsakademie BAP offers pre-employment training for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. This class prepares migrants and refugees for nursing education. The lessons consist of German courses related to the nursing profession. The aim is to teach the participants German at B2 level. In addition, initial expertise in nursing is taught in a course that lasts about one year. The employment agency or the job centre usually takes care of the financial part. After successful completion, the participants will receive a certificate with a recommendation for nursing education. You can register at the office of the Berufsakademie.

Contact:

BAP

Neuburger Straße 60

94032 Passau

Tel.: 085172088 80

Email: info@bap-passau.de

4.7. Tax return

If you managed to find a job and earn your own money, you should check if you need to file for a tax return. A tax return is a statement from someone presenting their matters to the tax authorities. With this, the department determines how much tax you have to pay. That means you tell the finance office how much you earn and how much you spend. Incomes include social benefits such as social assistance or unemployment benefits. A tax declaration is especially important, if you receive social benefits and work at the same time to earn money on your own. Taxes are deducted from one's monthly earning. By filing a tax return, you may be able to get part of these tax payments back at the end of the year.

Not everyone is required to file a tax return. You need to check with the responsible authorities as soon as you earn money.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/for-qualified-professionals/working/guide/taxes>

or to:

Finanzamt Passau

Tel.: 0851 5040

Postfach 1450

94030 Passau

Lohnsteuerhilfe Bayern e.V.

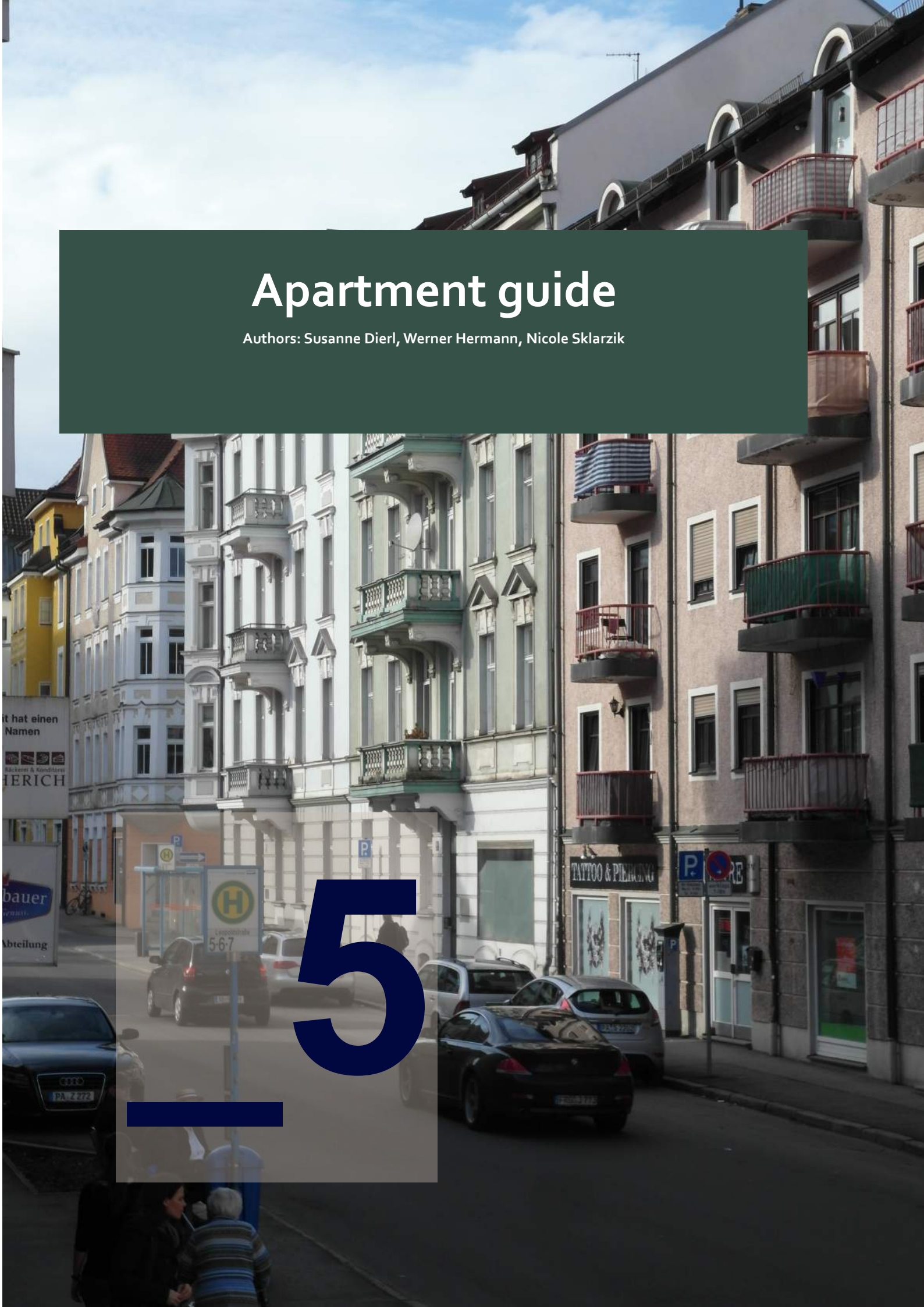
Tel.: 0851754334

Neuburger Straße 74

Apartment guide

Authors: Susanne Dierl, Werner Hermann, Nicole Sklarzik

5



Note: The present guideline is supposed to give you an overview of the support services currently available and help you step by step with apartment-hunting. The apartment guide was developed as part of the project seminar „Interculturality in the context of escape migration“ at the University of Passau.

5.1. Fundamentals

As soon as you have been granted a residence permit, you will be requested by the Government of Lower Bavaria to move out of the shared accommodation. This is not an option: you are obligated to move out.

From this point on you will no longer receive your benefits from the Social Welfare Office, but from the responsible job centre. The job centre also pays the rent. You have to pay attention to rent ceiling which you can get informed about in the job centre.

5.2. Apartment-hunting: How can I find an apartment?

Looking for an apartment in newspapers and online
Many landlords advertise apartment offers in daily newspapers. The most important local newspaper for the city and the district of Passau is the Passauer Neue Presse (PNP). Every Wednesday and Saturday, it contains a real estate section in which free apartments and housing requests can be advertised. In addition, advertisements can also be found on the internet with the following link:

www.immobiliien.pnp.de/

You can find apartments on other websites as well:

- Immobilienscout 24: www.immobilienscout24.de
- Pwib: www.wohnungsboerse.net
- Immowelt: www.immowelt.de
- Immonet: www.immonet.de
- Ebay-Kleinanzeigen: www.kleinanzeigen.ebay.de/anzeigen

If you are interested in a room in a shared flat, you can also take a look at „WG Gesucht“ (www.wg-gesucht.de). Another option are the Facebook groups „Wohnung frei in Passau“ and „Wohnungsmarkt Passau und Umgebung“.

Social Housing and Housing Permit (Wohnberechtigungsschein - WBS)

Social housing is supported by the state to facilitate cheap rent. Therefore, these apartment are only be rented out to people who have difficulties in finding an apartment in the normal housing market due to very little income for example.

If you want to apply for a social housing, you must first sign up for a housing permit (WBS) which checks whether you are entitled to social housing or not.

If you live in the city of Passau, you can sign up for the housing permit in the town hall:

Rathaus

Stadt Passau, Rathaus Altes Zollamt

Rathausplatz 1

94032 Passau

Phone: 0851 3960

E-Mail: poststelle@passau.de

Opening hours

Monday- Friday 8 -12 am; Monday and Tuesday 1-4 pm;

Thursday 1-17, and by appointment

Contact person: Sabine Schmied-Recha

Phone: 0851 396 282

If you live in the district of Passau, apply for the housing permit at Passau district office:

Landratsamt Passau

Sachgebiet 63

Domplatz 11

94032 Passau

Phone: 0851 397 298 (Hotline)

Fax: 0851 397 303

Website: www.landkreis-passau.de

Opening hours

Monday-Thursday 8-16; Friday 8-12

Contact person: Theresia Drasch

Phone: 0851 397 429

If you receive a residence permit, you can apply for an apartment owned by a landlord for social housing. For this, you need to fill out the application on the internet or on-site. The housing companies will contact you in case they have a suitable offer. Please keep in mind that a long waiting period must be expected.

The following landlords and housing companies offer social housing in the city of Passau

Wohnungs- und Grundstücksgesellschaft Passau mbH (WGP)

Dr.-Ernst-Derra-Straße 6

94036 Passau

Phone: 0851 956710

Kreis-Wohnungsbau GmbH Passau

Aidenbacher Str. 10

94474 Vilshofen

08541 968890

Kath. Wohnbauwerk für die Diözese Passau

Ludwigsplatz 3

94032 Passau

Phone: 0851 490593 0

Wohnungsgenossenschaft Passau

Nibelungenstraße 17a

94032 Passau

Phone: 0851 6441

Wohnanlage Haibach West

Göttweiger Straße 72
94032 Passau
Phone: 0851 35689

Wohnanlage Gleiwitzer Straße 1

Am Mollnhof 2
94036 Passau
Phone: 0851 50005 or 0851 51702
(Monday-Friday 9:00-11:00 am)

District of Passau

A list of landlords for social housing in the district of Passau can be found in the appendix or on the website of the district. You can also find other useful information and information sheets on social housing and housing permits .

<http://www.landkreis-passau.de/Landratsamt/Behoerdenwegweiser.aspx?view=~/kxp/orgdata/default&orgid=b614afb6-80d2-11d5-92d8-00306e0607e7>

When an apartment is offered for rent in the newspaper, abbreviations are often used. This is a list of the most commonly used shortcuts:

App.	Appartement	Apartment
DB/D'bad	Duschbad	Shower bath
EBK	Einbauküche	built-in kitchen
EG	Erdgeschoss	first floor
Inkl.	Inklusive	included
sof. frei	sofort frei	available immediately
teilmb.	Teilmöbliert	partly furnished
WG	Wohngemeinschaft	shared apartment
Whg.	Wohnung	apartment
Wohnfl.	Wohnfläche	living space
Zi.	Zimmer	room
ZKB	Zimmer-Küche-Bad	room-kitchen-bathroom
1 ZKB	Einzimmerwohnung	studio-apartment
2-Zi-Whg.	Zweizimmerwohnung	two-room apartment
1. OG	Erstes Obergeschoss	second floor (first floor British English)
1-Zi-App.	Einzimmer-Appartement	studio-apartment

Costs

Bek.	Betriebskosten	operating expenses
HK	Heizkosten	heating costs
Kaut.	Kaution	deposit
MM	Miete pro Monat	Rent per month
NK	Nebenkosten	Utilities, additional costs

Heater

E-hzg.	Elektroheizung	electric heating
Fb'hzg.	Fußbodenheizung	floor heating
Fernw.	Fernwärme	district heating
Nsphhzg.	Nachtspeicherheizung	night storage heating
öZH	Zentralheizung	central heating
Gashzg.	Gasheizung	gas heating

5.3. Consulting services in and around Passau

Various initiatives, organizations and associations in the city of Passau and in the district can assist you in finding accommodation. Moving into your own apartment involves many steps, which are explained in the following chapters. In the following you'll find a list of contacts that you can turn to for advice.

Integration team Passau

The integration team of the city of Passau helps residents of shared accommodations to take advantage of existing integration offers. The members are available as consultants and contact persons for a range of topics such as language courses, work, training, job centre, family reunion, etc. You can also use the help of the integration team when looking for a place to live. It should be noted that the integration team is solely responsible for the residents of the city of Passau but not for apartment seekers from the district of Passau. The integration team does not only support you in finding an accommodation but also accompany you on meetings with the landlord. Furthermore, they support you in all formalities, such as the assessment of suitability at the job centre. They also help you with moving and finding cheap or free furniture. Feel free to contact the integration team by phone or via email.

Integrationsteam Passau (integration team)

Rathausplatz 2

94032 Passau

- ◇ Sandra Wagner-Putz
sandra.wagner-putz@Passau.de
Phone: 0851 396 579 or 0151 11195181
- ◇ Anna Lippl
anna.lippl@Passau.de
Phone: 0851 396 567 oder 0151 18840305
- ◇ Alexander Lange
alexander.lange@Passau.de
Phone: 0851 396 567 or 0151 14337492

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IntegrationStadtPassau/home>

Coordinating service of volunteer work in the area of Passau

You can also contact the coordinating office when looking for accommodation. You will then be assigned to a local volunteer who will help you to find an apartment.

Contact for the district of Passau north of the Danube:

Caritasverband für die Diözese Passau e. V.

Beate Heindl

Steinweg 8

94032 Passau

Phone: 0851 38366 13

Fax: 0851 38366 25

E-Mail: beate.heindl@caritas-passau.de

Contact for the district of Passau south of the Danube:

Diakonisches Werk des Evang.-Luth. Dekanatsbezirk Passau e.V.

Maximilian Gerleigner

Nikolastraße 12b

94032 Passau

Telefon: 0851 5606 150

Fax: 0851 5606 160

Email: ehrenamt@diakonie-passau.de

Helper circles around Passau

A first contact point when looking for a place of residence is the local helper circle (Aidenbach, Bad Füssing, Breitenberg, Büchlberg, Eging am See, Fürstenstein, Fürstenzell, Hartkirchen, Hauzenberg, Hutthurm, Kellberg, Neuhaus am Inn, Ortenburg / Söldenau, Pocking, Pleinting, Ruhstorf, Salzweg, Tittling, Thyrnau / Kellberg, Vilshofen, Wegscheid).

You can ask them if and to what extent one of the helper circles can help you to find an apartment. A detailed description of all helper circles in the district of Passau as well as contact details can be found on the website of „Gemeinsam leben und lernen in Europa e.V.“ (<http://www.gemeinsam-in-europa.de/>).

5.4. Moving in: What am I supposed to do after finding an apartment?

5.4.1. Services

If you haven't got your own income and receive unemployment benefit II (Arbeitslosengeld II), the responsible job centre will pay your rent up to a certain amount. In addition, you are entitled to an allowance for the first equipment of your apartment.

The job centre can also provide you a loan for a security deposit. More detailed information about these services can be obtained from the city of Passau. There is no entitlement to housing benefits besides those mentioned above.

However, if you do not receive unemployment benefit II because you are employed, you may be eligible for housing allowance. You can apply for housing allowance at the Wohngeldstelle (housing benefit authority) in the city of Passau:

Stadt Passau, Dienstleistungszentrum Passavia

Vornholzstraße 40

94036 Passau

Phone: 0851 396 0

Opening hours: Monday-Friday 8-12 am ; Monday and Tuesday 1-4 pm; Thursday 1-5 pm

5.4.2. Leasing contract

After having found an apartment and made all the necessary agreements with the landlord, you must pay attention to the following:

You will get a certificate from your landlord that includes information about the size of the apartment and the amount of the rent. You need to have this certificate checked by the job centre before you sign a lease. This so-called „adequacy check“ decides whether the job centre will pay the rental costs. The rent may not exceed a certain limit. For the city of Passau, the following guideline, taking into account the family size, would be appropriate:

Amount of people	Basic rent excluding heating	Apartment size
1 person	351,00 Euro	50 m ²
2 people	450,00 Euro	65 m ²
3 people	517,00 Euro	75 m ²
4 people	616,00 Euro	90 m ²
5 people	715,00 Euro	105 m ²
Increased demand for further room-mates	99,00 Euro	15 m ²

Only when the job centre has given its consent, you should sign the lease. The landlords often wait for this consent before they let you sign the contract. After this, you have to submit the signed rental contract to the job centre.

In case the job center does not agree with the contract (for example because the rent is higher than the rent limit), it could be the case that the rent is only paid up to a certain amount. In addition, the job centre decides whether it is going to pay the deposit or not.

You can get a form for confirmation on tenancy agreement and a leaflet about the adequacy of the apartment at the job centre which the landlord has then has to fill out NOTE: Be sure to have a copy of all the documents you sign and keep them in a safe place!

5.4.3. Deposit, initial supply and replacement

In almost every case, you need to pay a deposit for an apartment. The sum of the deposit must not be higher than three rents and can be borrowed from the job centre. That means you need to pay it back.

The deposit serves as a financial security for the landlord. The tenant is obligated to treat the apartment carefully. When you move out of the apartment and there are no damages, you will get the deposit back.

Apartments are often rented out unfurnished. In this case you have to organise your own furniture. For this, you can apply for an allowance from the job centre. The sum of the allowance complies with the size of the apartment and the number of people living in it. You must apply for the allowance for initial equipment before you buy furniture. Cheap furniture and household items can be found here, for example:

Wiener Straße 14
94032 Passau (Innstadt)
Monday-Friday 10am – 6pm / Sunday 10am – 2 pm
Bus stop: Auenweg (Line 3/4)
Website: www.troedelbuam.de

Gebraucht-Möbel-Markt

Winzerleite 4
94036 Passau
Monday-Friday 10am – 6pm / Saturday 9am – 4pm
Bus stop: Winzerleite (Line 8/9/10)
Website: www.geb-moebel.de

Tip Top Möbelmarkt

Hötzdorf 5
94116 Hutthurm
Monday-Friday 8-18 o'clock / Saturday 9-12 Uhr
Bus stop: Passau ZOB to Hutthurm: Line 6130/ 6135
Website: <http://www.tiptop-moebel.de>

Mömax

Steinbachstraße 15
94036 Passau (Auerbach)
Monday-Friday 9am – 7 pm / Saturday 9 am – 6 pm
Bus stop: Holzmannstraße (Line 7/8/9/10) or Hacklstein (Line 8/9/11) + Walking
Website: www.moemax.de/filiale/moemax-passau/PX

You can also look for cheap furniture online, on websites like Ebay Kleinanzeigen (www.kleinanzeigen.ebay.de/anzeigen) or via the Facebook groups „VERSCHENK'S PASSAU“ and „Zu verschenken – Passau und Umgebung“. You might get furniture and household items for free through these groups.

Important tip: Keep the receipts for purchased furniture. Sometimes you need to present them, if you are receive a subsidy for them (e.g. from the social security office, a foundation etc.)

If your new apartment is already fully furnished or partially furnished, your previous tenant may ask you for a replacement fee for these furniture and fixtures (for example, a fitted kitchen), this means you need to pay the former tenant money to buy their furniture. This payment is usually not covered by the job centre. Should you take furniture for a fee, it is advisable to conclude a contract. The contract should be signed by both sides before moving in. Make sure that all furniture and fixtures and their amount are indicated in the contract.

5.5. Living in an apartment: What things do I have to consider?

5.5.1. Power of attorney and contact to the landlord

If you know someone who is German or speaks German very well, this person can get information for you at the job centre. For this you need to authorise the person through a written statement. In this written statement, you confirm that this person may ask for information about apartments and rent for you at the job centre.

It can be helpful to get support from someone who speaks German very well, so that you do not get in trouble because of misunderstandings with the landlord. This person can explain things to the landlord in order to solve problems.

NOTE: If you suddenly no longer receive money from the job centre, this is often due the fact that the deadline for a follow-up application has expired. Please check whether you have submitted the follow-up application or not. Talk to your official in charge, if you have missed the deadline!

The job centre can also transfer the money for your rent directly to the landlord.

Landlords prefer this. For this you need a „declaration of assignment“. With this „declaration of assignment“ you allow the job center to transfer the rent for your apartment directly to the landlord.

Basically, you are now responsible for the maintenance of your apartment, which means you need to take care of it, keep it clean and make sure nothing breaks.

You should have your landlord's phone number in case of an emergency. If you lose your key for example, you can call your landlord.

5.5.2. Notification requirement and exemption from the fee for broadcasting (Rundfunkbeitrag)

In Germany, everyone has to register their address at the residents' registration office. You can do this either at the city of Passau or at the district office (Landratsamt).

After you have signed your rental agreement, you have two weeks to officially register your place of residence in the registration office of your new place. The city of Passau is responsible for the urban area. If your new place of residence is in the rural district, contact the Landratsamt Passau. You must make an appointment with the department to get registered.

If you move into the apartment as a family, all family members must be reported to the registration office. You must bring along the IDs of each family member, as well as the confirmation of residence to this date.

City of Passau

Dienstleistungszentrum Passavia

Vornholzstraße 40

94036 Passau

Phone: 0 851 396-100 or -225

Fax: 0 851 396- 111 or -291

E-Mail: buergerbuero@passau.de

Opening hours: Monday and Tuesday 7.30 am – 4pm, Wednesday and Friday 7.30 am – 12pm, Thursday 7.30am – 5 pm

or

Altes Rathaus

Rathausplatz 2 (Main entrance Schrottgasse 1)

94032 Passau

Phone: 0 851 396-225 r -100

Fax: 0 851 396-291 oder -111

E-Mail: buergerbuero@passau.de

Opening hours: Monday and Tuesday 7.30 am – 4pm; Wednesday and Friday 7.30 am - 12 pm; Thursday 7.30am – 5 ü,

Landratsamt Passau

Gemeinde Neuhaus a. Inn

Klosterstraße 1

94152 Neuhaus am Inn

Phone: 08503 9111 0

Fax: 08503 9111 91

Website: <http://www.neuhaus-inn.de/index.php>

Opening hours: Monday-Friday 8am – 12 pm; Tuesday 2-4 pm; Thursday 2-6 pm

Broadcasting fee (Rundfunkbeitrag)

After having moved into your new apartment, you will receive a letter from the "Beitragsservice" soon. The Broadcasting fee institution "ARD ZDF Deutschlandradio Beitragsservice" is an institution in Germany that requires payments for public television and radio stations.

Each household is obligated to pay the broadcasting fee for public service radio and television programs. This means every household has to pay an amount to support news on the radio or on television which allows radio and television stations to work independently and report freely.

An Arabic-language info sheet can be found at: https://www.rundfunkbeitrag.de/welcome/arabisch/index_ger.html?highlight=arabisch.%20arabisch

If you receive social assistance, you do not have to pay this fee. But you still need to fill out a form and confirm that you receive social assistance. The official form for the broadcasting fee will be sent to you by post. You have to indicate that you receive social assistance and send the form back. In case you do not do this or do not do this on time, you might be forced to pay overdue fines and additional payments.

If you have a new address, you must notify all authorities and departments as well as the health insurance.

Internet, TV and landline

If you want to use internet, television or landline, you have to conclude a contract with a provider. Please note that these are binding contracts for a fixed term. Therefore, before concluding a contract, you should get advice from German people.

The best known providers are listed below:

- Vodafone (www.vodafone.de)
- 1 & 1 (www.1und1.de)
- Telecom (www.telekom.com)
- O2 (www.o2online.com)
- EWE (www.ewe.de)
- unitymedia (www.unitymedia.de)

To facilitate your decision, you can also use portals such as www.preis24.de, www.check24.de or www.toptarif.de/internetanbieter, where you will find summaries and comparisons of the rates available for your place of residence. However, you might need assistance from somebody who speaks German as the websites are only available in German.

5.5.3. Special features of maintenance

- House rules - caretaker

House rules

In some houses and apartments house rules exist. Every resident should obey to those rules. The landlord provides you with those rules or they are put up in the hallway of the house. It can contain rules on the following topics:

- Winter duty (snow removal)
- Cleaning the staircase
- Use of the laundry room
- Garbage duty (bringing out garbage cans and taking them back in)

If you violate the house rules, the landlord can give you a warning and even terminate your contract in case of serious violations.

Rest periods

In most apartments, there are fixed rest periods which must be followed in respect for the other residents of the house. Mid-day rest is usually between 12 and 2 pm and night rest starts at 10pm. During these time periods you should not bother your neighbors with noise such as loud music. The exact times for your apartment can be found in the house rules. On Sundays, those rules also apply in Germany. This means you should not disturb your neighbors with loud noise.

Use of the corridor / staircase

In most rental buildings, it is not allowed to leave personal be-

longings in the hallway or staircase. You should store shoes, umbrellas, laundry racks, baby strollers and other things in your apartment.

Specific rules for the use of the corridor or the staircase can be found in the house rules or you can simply ask your landlord.

Use of green areas / meadows / gardens

If there is a green space, meadow or a garden at your rental building, it is determined in the house rules whether you may use these. In the house rules, you can read if it is allowed to hang laundry or have a barbecue outside of the house for example. If you are not sure, then ask your landlord.

Role of caretaker

Many buildings also have a caretaker. However, they have a different role than the caretaker, who was already presented in the communal housing. The caretaker in your apartment building is not responsible for the following scenarios:

caretaker, who was already presented in the communal housing. The caretaker in your apartment building is not responsible for the following scenarios:

- Replacing light bulbs in your home
- Handicrafts in your apartment
- Bringing the mail from the mailbox to your apartment

The same applies to your landlord. You will need to carry out minor repairing yourself. If you want to permanently change something in your home, such as doors, windows, kitchen or bathroom, you should ask the caretaker or the landlord first!

Furthermore, if you damaged a door or a window, for example, you should contact your caretaker immediately!

Mold

Another problem that can often occur in German houses is mold. In that case the walls get gray and/or black spots. You can often see this in the bathroom on the edge of a shower or bathtub. Heavy mold damages the apartment and is unhealthy for humans. If the fungus spreads while you continue to live in the apartment, you are risking diseases in your respiratory system and lung.

In Passau there is a high humidity, because the city is very close to the river. It is important to ventilate the apartment often and to open the windows on a regular basis. This prevents mold infestation.

Therefore, open all your windows for 5-10 minutes each day to guarantee an air circulation. If the natural humidity cannot pass off the apartment, you risk a spread of mold.

Mold mostly arises in rooms that are exposed to a lot of humidity (for example due to the formation of steam):

- bathroom (shower)
- kitchen (stove)
- Rooms where wet laundry is dried
- Rooms where many plants are watered

If you see gray or black spots on the walls in your home, contact your landlord.

Waste separation

Another important issue in Germany is waste separation. All households are required to sort their waste according to packaging materials and are responsible for proper disposal. There are different trash cans for all sorts of garbage in the house. In the city of Passau there are

- „Blue bins“: paper waste
- „Black bins“: residual waste
- „Brown bins“: organic waste

If there is no „brown bin“ registered for your house, dispose your organic waste over the „black bin“.

On the website of Zweckverband Abfallwirtschaft Donau-Wald you can download a guide for waste separation in German or English for free. In there, you will find concrete explanations about waste separation: <https://www.awg.de/broschueren>

The garbage cans are emptied regularly from the garbage disposal. There are different rules for the disposal of glass, steel sheet or recycled waste. These sorts of garbage will not be picked up by the garbage collector in front of your house. For glass and steel sheet, there are special containers available in the city. In the appendix you will find an overview of the locations of waste glass and tinplate containers in the city of Passau. In recycling yards you can, for example, get rid of electrical appliances, rubber tires or especially large amounts of waste.

Neighborhood

A good neighborhood helps all residents to feel comfortable in their home. As a rule, Germans are initially a bit distant and do not usually take the first step. Do not hesitate to introduce yourself to your new neighbors, most people appreciate this gesture and you are able to start a good neighborly relationship.

Electricity and gas

If the heating costs are included in the additional costs of the rent, in the case of gas heating, the gas does not have to be obtained from the public utilities (Stadtwerke), the landlord is responsible for the gas in that case. However, if you have your own gas metre for your apartment (not for oil or wood heating), you must contact the public utilities before moving in so that they can read the metre and re-account for the gas. It is sufficient to just call the Stadtwerke.

For the electricity supply, you must always contact an electricity supplier before moving in. In Passau, the Stadtwerke also provide electricity, and you can just call them.

Usually, the apartment tenant receives the bills for electricity and gas. However, you can ask the job centre to help you out with the costs when you receive housing or unemployment benefits.

Stadtwerke Passau GmbH

Regensburger Straße 29
94036 Passau
Phone: 0851 560 0

Fax: 0851 560 145

Email: servicecenter@stadtwerke-passau.de

When you move into a rental apartment it is important that you pay attention to your power wastage. At this point, we would like to draw your attention to the so-called „additional cost trap“: Many tenants do not know that there are consumption-related additional costs that are not included in the rental price. These include in particular electricity and heating costs. Thus, a high consumption might lead to high additional payments. To save energy and avoid high additional costs, you should consider the following tips, among others:

- Always switch off electrical devices completely by unplugging the device from the grid. Power is wasted even in stand-by mode.
- Turn off the lights when leaving the room.
- When washing your hands, brushing your teeth and taking a shower, be careful not to let the water flow unnecessarily long.
- Only turn on the washing machine and dishwasher when fully loaded.
- Keep your windows closed while you are heating. Open the windows completely for a short period of time instead of letting them tilt for a long time (see leaflet on proper heating and ventilation in the appendix).

5.5.4. House owner's insurance policy

In Germany you can conclude liability insurance. This is an insurance for costs that arise from a self-inflicted damage to the property of another. So you are liable for this damage. Basically such insurance makes sense in Germany, since everyone is liable for the damage they cause. This is also regularized by law.

Anyone who causes damage is unlimitedly liable for it. Unlimited also means that if a person receives unemployment benefit or housing benefit, savings or funds from future incomes or pension income can still be collected for damages. Therefore, liability insurance is recommended to everyone. It saves you from having to pay for damage with your own money. The cost of a private liability is about 50 € per year for a single household and about 70 € per year for a family household. Concluding a liability insurance will also reassure your landlord and neighbors, because it gives them security that you can compensate for any damage you may cause. As a result, liability insurance can improve the neighborhood climate - for all concerned.

The household insurance insures furnishing, consumer goods and consumables (household effects) of the insured apartment. It is an insurance of property. That means it does not play a role who owns or uses the items. The items are insured against dangers such as fire, lightning strokes, explosion, burglary, robbery, vandalism (destruction by humans), tap water, storm and hail. In case of damage, the original price of the items will be reim-

bursed to set a new foundation. A household insurance should be concluded if you could not replace your belongings without financial problems. The costs of such insurance depend on the size of the apartment and other factors.

If you are interested in concluding such an insurance or if you have further questions, you can contact the following insurance company:

Gottwald GmbH

Neuburger Straße 102 d

94036 Passau

Phone 0851/71021

Fax 0851/71023

info@gottwald-passau.de

5.5.5. Bank account and money transfer orders

Banks and the deposited money are much better protected in Germany than in the countries that most refugees come from. Even though banks do not always have a great reputation, having a bank account is an obligation in Germany because many financial matters are handled only digitally.

If you haven't opened a bank account yet, you need to do the following steps:

First, make an appointment with the bank of your choice, because without an appointment, you have to expect long waiting hours. You need to show up on time. If your German is not

good enough, bring an interpreter.





To open an account, you need specific documents such as a passport and residence permit. The document must contain a picture and an official stamp.

Before opening an account, find out about possible account maintenance fees. Many banks require monthly fees for account management which are paid directly from your account. In addition, fees may apply for debit or credit cards, as well as cash withdrawals at the ATM. So-called online banks often charge little or no fees, but have no subsidiaries where you can ask for a consultation.

As soon as you move to a new apartment and have a new address, you have to notify your bank as well.

In Germany, it is very common to make regular (annual, monthly, etc.) payments by standing order. With your newly created account, you've taken the first step in setting up standing orders.

But what is a standing order actually? With a standing order you allow your bank to carry out regular transfers automatically. Consequently, you do not have to transfer the money for rent yourself, the system of the bank does it for you. When you set up a standing order, you must specify the time periods, the amount and the date on which the standing order is to be executed. For example, a standing order for your rental payments might look like this: Every month, 260 € of rent is to be transferred to your landlord on the first day of the month. Just as with a simple transfer, you should specify a recipient and a

Payment method	Explanation
Cash payment 	The traditional method of payment is paying with cash in stores.
Debit card payment (local business) 	Paying with debit card is now more popular than ever. From an amount of 5 or 10 euros you can pay with debit card in a store.
Money transfer 	For the payment of online orders or invoices, money transfers are possible. You can either: 1. Fill out a remittance slip in the bank or 2. You can do it with a computer or a smartphone
Lastschrift 	It is also possible to use the direct debit procedure for regular payments: The payer gives permission to debit a specific amount from their account to a payee. You don't need to fill out a transfer slip. Example: Mobile phone contract, charging the prepaid phone
Money transfer order	With a standing order you allow your bank to carry out regular transfers automatically. Example: Rent is automatically transferred to the landlord each month

5.6. Signatures and Contracts

The signature is a handwritten, own drawing of the name and must at least contain the surname. A signature with only the first name is not valid. The signature of a person should always look the same so that they can be recognized.

For example, the signature on your ID card should look like the signature you write on documents. So you can see that it is indeed your signature.

The signature of a person is very important in Germany. When you sign a document, for example, you confirm the text above and commit yourself to it. The contract becomes legally valid by a signature.

If you fail to comply with the contract, you may be held legally responsible. This could have serious consequences for you, for example in the form of overdue fines that you have to pay.

Always be careful and do not sign anything you do not understand!

If someone gives you a document to sign, take it home and ask someone to explain the content to you before you sign it.

Even if you want to conclude a mobile phone contract, read the contract first or ask someone who can help you.

5.7. „Feel good“

Congratulations, you made it: you successfully moved from the shared accommodation in a private apartment!

Your new apartment opens up many possibilities. You can live your everyday life the way you want, and you no longer have to be considered of your roommates and their privacy in the accommodation. Nevertheless, many refugees report that they find it difficult to come to terms with the new housing situation despite all the advantages.

Do you feel lonely? Do you feel the silence of your private rooms as unfamiliar or even depressing? It's hard for you to do everyday household-related tasks? If you answered one or more questions with „yes“: you are not alone with these feelings!

Moving into your own apartment should enable you to take a break and get accustomed to your new life situation in Germany. Often, however, this also means that experiences in connection to your escape are relived. As a result, it is normal for

you to have difficulties with daily routines and feel sad and alone. Nobody expects you to feel good every day!

You can now use the energy that you have previously invested in finding and furnishing your home for further projects:

- Language courses
- Leisure and sports activities
- Intercultural exchange
- Volunteering
- Recognition of educational qualifications and certificates
- Professional or academic qualification

Try to make contact with like-minded people. Often, people who are in the same situation and have similar experiences have an open ear and good advice. If you have not found (regular) contact with Germans yet, you can also look for programs in the following organizations in which you are interested and where you can make acquaintances with Germans:

- Asylum Cafe
- Cook with the world
- Diakonie Passau
- Women's Café
- Ecumenical Supporters * Inner Circle Asylum Passau

On the website of „Gemeinsam leben und lernen in Europa e.V.“ you will also find a list of all initiatives and associations in refugee work.

Cook with the World

If you are interested in food, cooking and experimenting, in foreign cultures, travelling, making new experiences and meeting new people, then Cook With The World is just the group for you! They meet once a week in the evening at the place of one of the members, cook an international dish, talk and have lots of fun together. Everyone is welcome, no matter where you come from, they would love to get to know you and hope that you can show us new recipes!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CookWithTheWorld/>

E-Mail: info@cooking-passau.de

Protestant student community Passau (Evangelische Studierendenengemeinde Passau – ESG)

The ESG offers German classes for refugees, asylum seekers or late repatriates on a daily basis which are taught by students or non-students voluntarily. The courses are held for different language levels and there also some exclusively for women. Private lessons are also possible (Alphabetization, preparation

for exams, tutoring, higher language levels). Furthermore, the ESG just introduced the project "Come together for German". "You are a refugee, asylum seeker or a late repatriate and are looking for someone to help you with your German skills? Then you are welcome to join us every Wednesday from 12 to 1 PM in Nikolakloster Uni Passau (Innstraße 40) Room 207.

<http://esg-passau.de/come-together/>

Contact:

Evangelische Studierenden Gemeinde Passau

Universität Passau

Nikolakloster NK207

Innstraße 44

94030 Passau

Tel: 0851 / 5091975

E-Mail: esg@uni-passau.de

Sonja Sibbor-Heißmann

E-Mail: sonja.sibbor.heissmann@googlemail.com

Homepage: <http://esg-passau.de/deutschkurse/>

Women's Café

The Women's Café is a meeting point for women in Passau which is held every two weeks. Especially female refugees but also other women are invited to interact and get to know each other for joined activities. The meetings take place on Fridays from 3 to 5 PM in Passau, Ort 9, 94032 Passau. Please check beforehand if the meeting takes place that day.

If you are interested, just come over or send an email. The Women's café is happy for everyone who stops by in order to help and support. Homemade dishes are welcome as well.

Contact:

FrauenCafé - Women's Café

Gemeinschaftsraum

Ort 9

94032 Passau

E-Mail: frauencafe@inventati.org

<http://info-asyl.de/index.php?/archives/11-Frauencafe.html>

Islamic Community

Founded in 2003, the community for Muslims in the city and rural area is an international community with people from Africa, Arabic states, Bosnia, Germany, Indonesia, Austria, Pakistan, Czech Republic, Turkey and many more. The goal is to enable Muslims the practice of their religion. There are prayer rooms at the address of "Roßtränke 6" in Passau with weekly prayers on Fridays and holidays and other collective prayers. They also

offer other activities for example pastoral counseling, Arabic lessons for children, Islamic lessons for teens, meetings with women or other ongoing events.

<http://www.isgepa.de/>

NoBorder Passau

NoBorder Passau is a political association of refugees/non-citizens and non-refugees/citizens that has been advocating the asylum seekers/non-citizens' rights in Passau and its neighborhoods since 2010. It supports especially asylum seekers/non-citizens in their political fights and gives information about their current situation. NoBorder Passau works in public relations, stands up for solidarity in individual cases and organizes long-term projects to improve the life situations of refugees. The political association works in open groups on a weekly basis. You are welcome if you have criticism, suggestions or want to support the group. You can just come by to one of the meetings or write an email.

Contact:

NoBorder Passau

c/o frei*raum

Innstraße 20

94032 Passau

E-Mail: fluechtlingsrechte-passau@gmx.de

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NoBorder-Passau-213451825350234/timeline/>

Homepage: www.passauerbuendnis.de

Ecumenical support group Asylum Passau – Project: Creating a welcoming culture

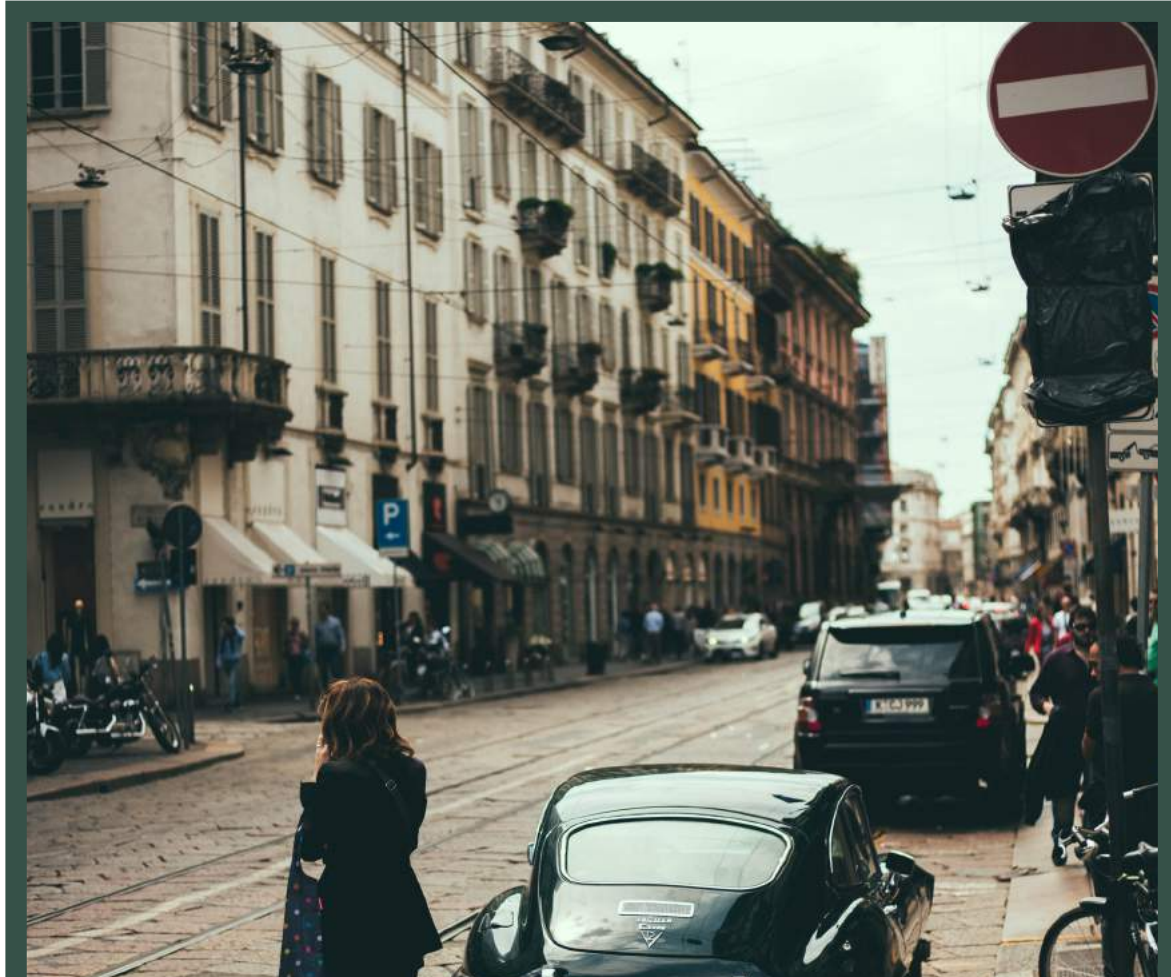
The ecumenical support group Asylum Passau was founded as an initiative of the protestant and catholic student community in May 2015. It wants to welcome refugees in Passau with different kinds of activities. Once a week, there are sport meetings and arts and crafts workshops for underaged and unaccompanied refugees. Furthermore, once a month, there is an excursion for asylum seekers and other people of Passau. For further information, check the Facebook page.

Contact:

Andreas Rapp & Dominik Wagner

E-Mail: unterstuetzerkreis.asyl.passau@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/%C3%96kumenischer-Unterst%C3%BCtzerkreis-Asyl-Passau/763505617102234?fref=ts>





Health and provision of medical care

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6.1. Medical care before, during and after the asylum request

In the first 15 months of your stay, the costs for medical care are taken care of by the government. During this time, you have a limited right to access to medical services. The medical services are limited to acute cases requiring immediate medical attention such as acute illness or pain resulting from an accident.

For other medical care (such as dental visits), you need to seek an authorisation or referral from a competent health department. The medical department will decide the need for such medical care.

Note 1: In case of inpatient treatment (such as surgery), some additional costs may be involved, such as transportation. Unfortunately, the law in Germany is silent on who pays for the additional costs. To avoid inconveniences, it is very important that you prepare and make adjustment for the additional costs in advance.

Note 2: Additional challenges may occur in case of mental health care for refugees. This could be due to long waiting times and or lack of (German) language competence on the part of the refugee. It is important to prepare for the waiting time and perhaps involve a translator when visiting the doctor to overcome communication difficulties.

After the first 15 months, you will receive a list of all health insurance companies and you can choose your own health insurance. From this point on, you will be insured by the health insurance company of your choice and receive a health insurance card. This means, your medical care is no longer limited to acute cases and you no longer need an authorization from a health department for your medical care.

The following links may be helpful on questions relating to medical and health care.

AOK-Service: Information for immigrants

www.aok-business.de/bayern/zuwanderung
www.healthinsurance-germany.com

Brochure of the Federal Ministry of Health: Guide health for asylum seekers in Germany

German: http://www.bmg.bund.de/fileadmin/dateien/Publikationen/Gesundheit/Broschueren/Ratgeber_Asylsuchende/Ratgeber_Asylsuchende_dt.pdf

English: http://www.bmas.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/PDF-Schwerpunkte/neustart-bmg-bund-ratgeber-gesundheit-fuer-asylsuchende-english.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=4

Project "MedHilfe Passau"

Medhilfe Passau is a community of Passau medical staff with the aim to ensure and improve the medical care of refugees in Passau. In case you (or a refugee friend) are in need of mental health care you may call one of the following coordinators for a mediation and advice towards mental health treatment.

Tobias Schmidt (City Passau)
tobias.schmidt@passau.de

Klaus Peter Metzger (helper circle Firmiangut)
myesperanza@gmx.de
Sanne Burkert (Medhilfe Passau)
sanneburkert@googlemail.com

Dr. Angelika Metzger-Weiser (Medhilfe Passau)
a.me-we@gmx.de

The coordinators recommend and provide for suitable helpers for refugees with mental health problems.

Infoscouts for mental support

You may also seek spiritual and or emotional support is given from Chaplains who offer counselling services and emotional support to refugees who have been through difficult situations and or have acquired bad habits. Chaplains assist further with personal situations by offering advice and information on asylum procedure and your legal status.

Love, sexuality, pregnancy and marriage

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7.1. Facts about sexuality, partnership and marriage

Love, sexuality and partnership are essential aspects in human coexistence. It is important to understand and appreciate the existence of different values and practices regarding love, sexuality marriages and partnerships. Moreover, you should also understand that these practises (whether based on religious or cultural norms) are not "private decisions" but societal as they influence all areas of life and in some cultures, they involve a whole family.

For example, while sexuality is seen as something positive and encouraged in Islamic communities, homosexuality and extra-marital children are strictly prohibited. Sexuality is only permitted in the context of a marriage. This is quite different from Germany where the right of sexual self-determination applies. A person is free to choose sexual partner and or sexual orientation. It is a crime to violate this right and discriminate against others based on their sexual identity.

In Germany, domestic or spousal violence is strictly prohibited and is punishable under the law (through the right to sexual self-determination). If you are facing domestic violence, should contact a Prevention Officer of the police.

Birth control

Advice and support on contraception and sexuality are offered by the health department (das Gesundheitsamt). In case of communication difficulties, interpreters can be called in during your consultation with a health adviser. Generally, costs of translation are covered by the responsible social welfare office. In addition, there are other contact points in Passau where you can get free advice.

The following points of contact offer advice on pregnancy and various questions and counselling: such as ...

„What options do I have for support if (when confronted by honorary office "Ehrenamt"?

„How do I deal with it?"

Gesundheitsamt Landratsamt Passau

Passauer Straße 33

94081 Fürstenzell

Phone.: 08502 9131-0

E-Mail: gesundheitsamt@landkreis-passau.de

Pro Familia

Beratungsstelle Passau

Leopoldstraße 9

94032 Passau

Phone.: 0851 53121

E-Mail: passau@profamilia.de

DONUM VITAE

Staatlich anerkannte Beratungsstelle für Schwangerschaftsfragen

Bahnhofstraße 32

94032 Passau

Phone.: 0851 37362

E-Mail: passau@donum-vitae-bayern.de

Caritasverband

Kath. Beratungsstelle f. Schwangerschaftsfragen

Ludwigsplatz 3

94032 Passau

Phone.: 0851 9664695

E-Mail: info@schwangerenberatung-passau.de

Other contact centres:

Projekt für geflüchtete Frauen:

www.lia-bayern.de

The state bears costs of hormonal contraceptive only for young women up to 20 years old. Women over the age of 20 must bear their own costs. However, state-approved pregnancy counselling services often provide condoms free of charge.

Zanzu

This is an online platform with sexual health information in 13 languages.

The web portal provides simple explanations and descriptive information (such as pictograms) covering body awareness, pregnancy and childbirth, contraception, HIV and other sexu-

ally transmitted infections. It also explains the rights and laws in Germany. The portal was developed by the Federal Center for Health Education in cooperation with the Belgian non-governmental organization Sensoa. For more information visit the website below.

www.zanzu.de

MiMi Bayern: Mit Migranten für Migranten – Interkulturelle Gesundheit in Bayern

MiMi is a health project „With Migrants for Migrants - Intercultural Health in Bavaria“ as part of the Bavarian Health Initiative „Gesund.Leben.Bayern.“ For intercultural health promotion and prevention. Within this project, experts from the Bavarian health and social care work together with committed migrants to improve access to health system and care to migrants.

It also trains migrants as intercultural health mediators. The trained health mediators inform their compatriots in the respective language about the German health system and other topics on health, such as healthy eating, mental health, dangers and risks of smoking and alcohol consumption, child health, precautionary measures and screening tests or family planning and pregnancy.

More information about the project visit their website:

<http://www.ethno-medizinisches-zentrum.de/>

Since 2017, the MiMi project has also a coordination office for the city and district of Passau:

Gesundheitsamt im Landratsamt Passau:

Kompetenzzentrum für Gesundheitsförderung und Prävention

Petra Müller

petra.mueller@landkreis-passau.de

Phone.: 0851-397830 (Do 10-13Uhr)

Information is also available online in different languages:

Arabisch: <http://www.schwanger-null-promille.de/ar/>

English: <http://www.schwanger-null-promille.de/en/>

Serbia: <http://www.schwanger-null-promille.de/sr/>

Russia: <http://www.schwanger-null-promille.de/ru/>



Leisure and cultural activities

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We have gathered various organizations in the city and as well as countryside, contacts and location, which offer leisure activities for migrants and refugees. This is NOT a comprehensive list but it is a good start!

In addition, you must always check for up-to-date information about the available programs and activities as the activities, time and contact person change regularly.

Info Asylum Passau

This is information platform for migrants and refugees. Here you can find information on different events and activities in different languages.

www.info-asyl.de

Facebook: Info Asyl Passau

mail@info-asyl.de

Beto-app

This is a free app to help you connect, integrate and make friends. You can install this app in your smartphone, search and connect with other refugees to share experience, helpers and organizations. In beto-app you can also find activities to join (get involved) or to offer your expertise, free of charge. You can also access beto via website:

Constanze Seibel & Julia Lohfink

Theresienstraße 8

94032 Passau

info@beto-app.org

<http://beto-app.org> + facebook

Asylcafé Passau n.e.V.

At AsylCafé, refugees and anyone in Passau is invited every other Wednesday from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Be it to exchange ideas with one another, to help the refugees learn German, to translate letters from the authorities or to help finding a flat. There are sometimes free cinema tickets / museum tickets.

www.asylcafe.blogspot.com

Facebook: AsylCafé Passau n.e.V.

asylcafe@googlemail.com

Chancen gestalten - Chances Passau:

A Chancen gestalt is a club dedicated to refugees attending vocational school. They provide mentoring program for young refugees and asylum seekers who came to Germany alone. They help the youth to integrate, encourage and profession orient them to discover their potential and opportunities in Germany.

Furthermore, you can also get involved in the mentoring team, network team, political education team and the event team.

passau@chancengestalten.org;

<https://www.facebook.com/ChangesPassau>

www.chancengestalten.org

Cook with the world – Hochschulgruppe

They have cooking program once a week - depending on the semester plan

Phone.: 01522-7040387

Freiwillige Feuerwehr Grubweg

info@ffpassau.de

Phone.: 0851-43318

Freundeskreis Firmiangut, Passau Grubweg

This is a support group for the Passau district. The group organizes different activities for elders as well as children. For example, they have programs such as weekly language courses, narrative café and children play days every Friday from 04:00 – 06:00 p.m.

Gemeinsam Leben und Lernen in Europa e.V.

Gemeinsam Leben und Lernen in Europa is an organization with different activities to help you and your family integrate and find your way in Germany. It has different programs such as the International Women's Meeting which meets once a month. The meetings offer women an opportunity to meet other women in cultural evenings, visits to special places in Passau or joint activities.

A „Cook with me“, is another program organized to bring younger and older people together for informal cooking.

The organization has variety of activities including intercultural film series and events, volunteering advice for migrants and refugees and language partnering. You may call to make an appointment to speak with them. More information about the individual projects and events can be found on the website.

www.gemeinsam-in-europa.de

Phone.: 0851-2132738

Initiative „Brücken für den Frieden Vilshofen“

The aim of the initiative is to link the old and young generation by organizing different activities such as intercultural city festival, football matches and hikes.

Contact: Herr Werner Geiger, Frau Rosemarie Neumann

wernergeiger@hotmail.com

Phone.: 0151 – 59890570

Fax: 0851/4905843

Email: mail@kinderschutzbund-passau.de

Internet: www.kinderschutzbund-passau.de

Kinderschutzbund Passau

The association organizes programs for children. They also have special integration program, an integrative dance project „Tanz mit mir“ for children from 4-8 years. This program is usually held in Zeughaus, Passau, Schießgrabengasse 12 and there is a contribution of 1€).

Other activities include holiday program at the castle, and family café: meeting for chatting, relaxing.

Activities schedule is as indicated below

Saturday 10:00 - 14:00 (Kinderstube KSB)

Tuesday 08:30 - 12:30 (Kinderstube KSB)

Tuesday 15:00 - 17:00 (KSB office)

Contact address:

Nikolastraße 9 (on the 1st floor);

94032 Passau

Phone.: 0851/2559

Fax: 0851/4905843

Email: mail@kinderschutzbund-passau.de

Internet: www.kinderschutzbund-passau.de

Ökumenischer Unterstützerkreis Asyl

It is a society that organizes leisure activities for young unaccompanied refugees in Passau. They have football matches on Wednesday afternoons, 3-4 day trips per year to wildlife parks. More information on their Facebook page.

<http://www.info-asyl.de/> + facebook

Welcome Dinner Passau

If you love cooking, you may find different activities involving cooking including dates for cooking together, multicultural picnic published on Facebook page of "Welcome dinner Passau".

<https://www.facebook.com/WelcomeDinnerPassau/?fref=ts>

or you may contact them by email :

Welcome-Dinner-Passau@gmx.de

Zeughaus Passau – Jugendzentrum

The centre for young people in Passau organizes meetings for young adults up to 27 years.

Streetworker Ralf Grunow

Ralf.Grunow@passau.de

Schießgrabengasse 12, Passau

Phone.: 0151 – 51192215

Kulturkarte Passau (KuKa)

KuKa was created to give people with little money, an access to cultural events. Through KuKa membership, you receive offers to cultural activities on reduced price or free of charge.

To access these services, you need to register yourself and receive your Kulturkarte (Culture card). On registration, you will pay 2€ as a one-time fee for the card.

You may contact KuKa offices through the following contacts :

KuKa office of AStA

University of Passau

Innstraße 29, room 160

kuka@stuve-unipassau.de

Phone.: 0851 509 19070

<https://kulturkartepassau.wordpress.com/>

You may also visit their Facebook page

To have a glimpse of clubs in Passau, you may visit the following websites. There you will find list of the clubs and their offers in Passau.

For Sport and free time activities:

<http://passau.de/LebeninPassau/SportundFreizeit.aspx>

For Arts and Culture:

<http://passau.de/LebeninPassau/Kultur.aspx>

Other events:

<http://passau.de/LebeninPassau/Veranstaltungen/WiederkehrendeVeranstaltungen.aspx>

Offers in the district of Passau can be found on the district website at:

<http://landkreis-passau.de/Kultur/Kulturreferat.aspx>

There are also numerous cultural associations in the city and district of Passau. Here is the overview:

Bayerisch-Böhmische Gesellschaft Freundeskreis Passau Ceske-Budejovice e.V. (Bavarian-Bohemian Society Circle of Friends Passau Ceske-Budejovice.)

The aim of the association to forge, maintain friendship, and reduce existing prejudices between the citizens of both sides and thereby contribute to international understanding. The association does not limit its activities to the cities of Passau and Budweis, but, according to its name, wants to build bridges of understanding and friendships between Bavaria and Bohemia. You can visit their website at:

info@bbg-passau.de

Deutsch – Iranische Gesellschaft

The objective of the German-Italian Society is to contribute to international understanding in general and to strengthen the integration of the European Community in particular. The society conducts annual meeting where members meet and exchange experiences. Moreover, there are lectures and Italian culture and way of life is best experienced through travel and human encounters, which happens through annual meetings. This is supplemented by lectures and activities involving art and culture such as music, painting, history and geography.

You can find more information about the society on the website or contact them in the email provided below

<http://www.dig-passau.de/>

vorstand@dig-passau.de

Deutsch-Japanische Gesellschaft in Passau e.V.

The German-Japanese Society in Passau e.V. was founded in

1983 as a non-profit association with the aim to strengthen the friendly relations between Germany and Japan, to awaken the mutual understanding of cultural peculiarities and in particular to cultivate the sister city partnership between Passau and Akita.

The society organises variety of activities including get-togethers, monthly regulars' table, and the annual New Year's dinner in a Japanese restaurant (mostly in Munich or Vienna), in which the participants are not only impressed by the culinary delights of Japanese cuisine, but also enjoy the exotic ambience of Far Eastern hospitality.

The DJG also supports the youth and sports exchange between Akita and Passau, help Japanese visitors in Passau, conducts Japanese-language city tours and advises Passau citizens, students planning to visit Japan. You can get more information on their website or email them through the address below.

<http://www.djg.passau.de/>
djg.passau@gmx.net

Deutsch-Österreichische Gesellschaft Freundeskreis Passau-Krems e.V.

The purpose of the German-Austrian Society is to promote friendly relations between the twin towns of Krems and Passau, as well as German-Austrian contacts. The society advocates for international sentiment, and tolerance culture and the idea of international integration. To learn more about the society and their activities, visit the website below. Or you may also contact them through the email below.

www.passau-krems.de or www.passau-krems.at
passaukrems@gmx.net

Deutsch-Russische Gesellschaft in Passau e.V.

The German-Russian Society in Passau is a friendship society founded in 2003. It began as a German-Russian choir group named „Nadezhda“ in 1998 and developed into a society with the aim to integrate immigrants from the former Soviet Union. The society organises different activities including language courses and concerts with the choir group at 19:00 every week (not during holidays) in the youth hostel St. Anton in Passau. The members of the society prepare Russian culinary during these events that brings together the new and the old immigrants in a cultural exchange and integration program.

In addition, the society organises discussion groups on German literature and history, offer assistance to new immigrants in settling as well as integrative cultural excursions.

To be part of the society, you will be required to pay a membership fee of 2.50 € a month (€ 30 per year) as a membership fee.

Wolf-Huber-Strasse 3, 94032 Passau, (bus stop St. Anton, Bus lines 1 and 2)

Phone.: 0851 9520 888

E-Mail: post@drg-passau.de

Facebook.: <https://www.facebook.com/russischepassau>

<http://www.drg-passau.de/>

Deutsch-Spanische Gesellschaft Passau e.V.

The aim of the society is to strengthen cultural and human relations between German with Spain and the Latin American countries. This is done through

- Establishment, maintenance and expansion of mutual contacts between German citizens of the city of Passau and the citizens of Spain, especially with the partner city of Málaga.
- Advice and assistance with mutual visits.
- Cultural and scientific events.

For more information about the society and their activities visit their website or contact them through the provided email.

<http://www.dsg-passau.de/>
hola@dsg-passau.de

Deutsch-Türkische Gesellschaft Bayern e.V.

Zweigstelle Passau

The German-Turkish society Passau branch was founded in June 1991. It is a branch of the German-Turkish Society of Bavaria. The society organises numerous events in addition to excursions, lectures, various exhibitions, and regular picnic à la turca (Turkish picnic). Visit their website or email them for more information.

passau@dtg-bayern.de
www.dtg-bayern.de

Deutsch-Ungarischer Freundeskreis Passau – Veszprém

German-Hungarian Circle of Friends Passau was founded with the aim of diversifying the relation between the citizens of the two cities, namely Passau and Veszprém. The society organises regular meeting where everyone in Passau is invited. Further to the meetings are social and cultural activities including excursions, arts as well as religious activities. Visit their website or email them for more information.

<http://www.duf.passau.de/>
amandadropalla@gmx.de

Intercultural information

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9.1. Intercultural communication

Intercultural communication means the communication between different cultures. Your life in a foreign country involves interaction with people of diverse culture. Cultural sensitisation is therefore an important aspect in your integration process for a successful coexistence. Cultural differences may exist, for example in one's belief, based on group affiliation, value and social/familial norms, or in behaviour and perceptions.

Different culture - different reality

Understanding and accepting other culture may not be so easy. The culture we grew up in is normally the foundation of our values and the orientation of our life. This impacts our perceptions and values, so none of us perceive reality in the exact the same way as the other. Each of us interprets his environment completely based on his cultural upbringing. We see the world around us through „cultural glasses“, so to speak.

The cultural glasses

Patterns that are familiar to us are automatically stored in our head as „normal“. Abnormalities and differences we find in foreign cultures are often stored in the form of generalisations, so-called stereotypes. We humans need them to navigate our way through a complex world. It is quite normal. We try to figure out how other people behave based on external characteristics (such as gender, clothing, skin color).

Such generalisations are e.g. about Germany and the Germans:

Always on time,
Very disciplined and focused on the work
Wear leather pants and eat sauerkraut
Drink a lot of beer
They all have a dog
Are all blond and pretty
Holocaust, Nazis

You probably noticed when reading that all these features do not apply to every German but are only generalisations and often even based on false facts. Normally, these generalisations are viewed by people who have no actual experience with the culture. Take another example of such generalisation, „All Arabs with a long beard are terrorists.“ This also is not true. Stereotypes thus often lead to negative values, namely to prejudices. So it is much more important to be open to others and to accept that you can be fundamentally wrong (because of the generalisations). Always see and accept another as an individual and be curious about their individual experiences, traits and attitudes rather than the generalisations!

An attempt to classify cultures without prejudice has been made by the Dutch psychologist Geert Hofstede. The classification

is based on the following factors:

- Power distance: high vs. low

In the countries of origin of many refugees, it is common for adults or higher persons (teachers, bosses ..) to have the full power of decision and to follow them wordlessly. In Germany, on the other hand, we attach more importance to participation or positive error feedback. This applies especially to the areas of family life, school life and working life.

- Degree of integration: individualism vs. collectivism

In collectivist societies, it is normal, especially in working life, to build up a personal relationship first. For example, you will be asked how your own children are doing - with us in Germany, such an approach would trigger a 'surprised reaction'.

- Masculine vs. Feminine cultures

In „masculine“ countries, it is common for women to be excluded from important decisions and decision making process.

Planning: Long-term vs. Short-term orientation

This can easily lead to misunderstandings and difficulties. The Germans like to plan - for example, we go to the supermarket with a shopping list. And we tend to be more long-term oriented, for example, we separate our garbage and worry about the recycling of raw materials. In many countries short term orientation is more dominant or come as a default social norm. Things are not so plannable, e.g. due to the unstable political conditions, due to poor income situation.

- Understanding of time: monochrome vs. polychronic

In Germany, it is important to always be on time: work and appointments have usually a fixed beginning and an end. This means also that it is important to make an appointment before you go to an office or a Doctor. You must also know that, when you make an appointment you must be punctual. If you are late to the appointment it will be cancelled and you will not be attended or receive the required service. It also means you will have to make another appointment.

- Communication behaviour: direct vs. indirect communication

Most cultures are dominated by indirect communication. This is not the case here in Germany. In Germany people are open and direct. This means, you should openly say or give your opinion. For example, if something does not suit you, or what you want, or what you can do well. It may take you some time to accustom yourself with this culture but keep in mind of this communication trait. Germans pay little attention to facial expressions / gestures or „encrypted“ messages.



Gefördert durch:



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