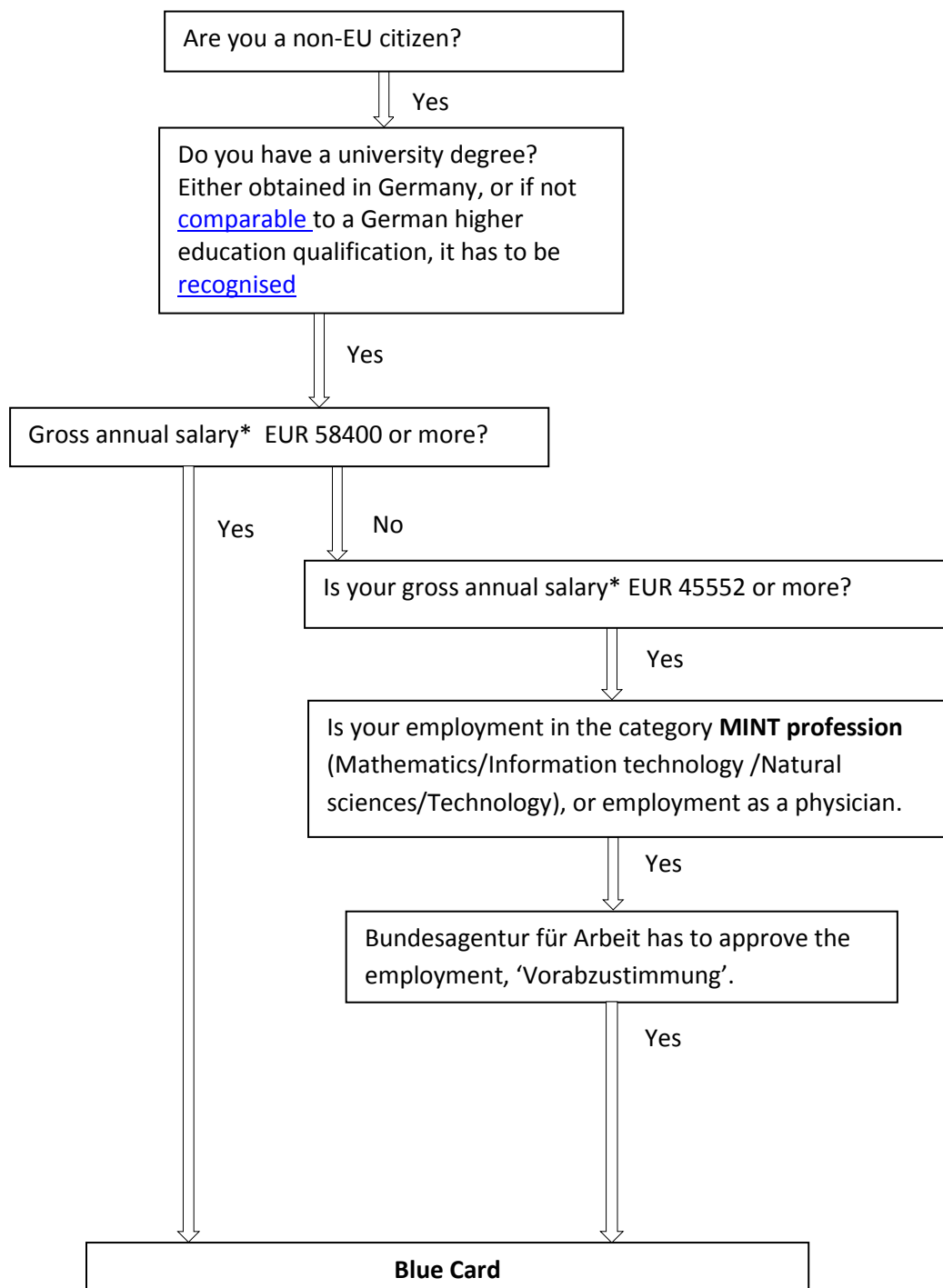


# Germany

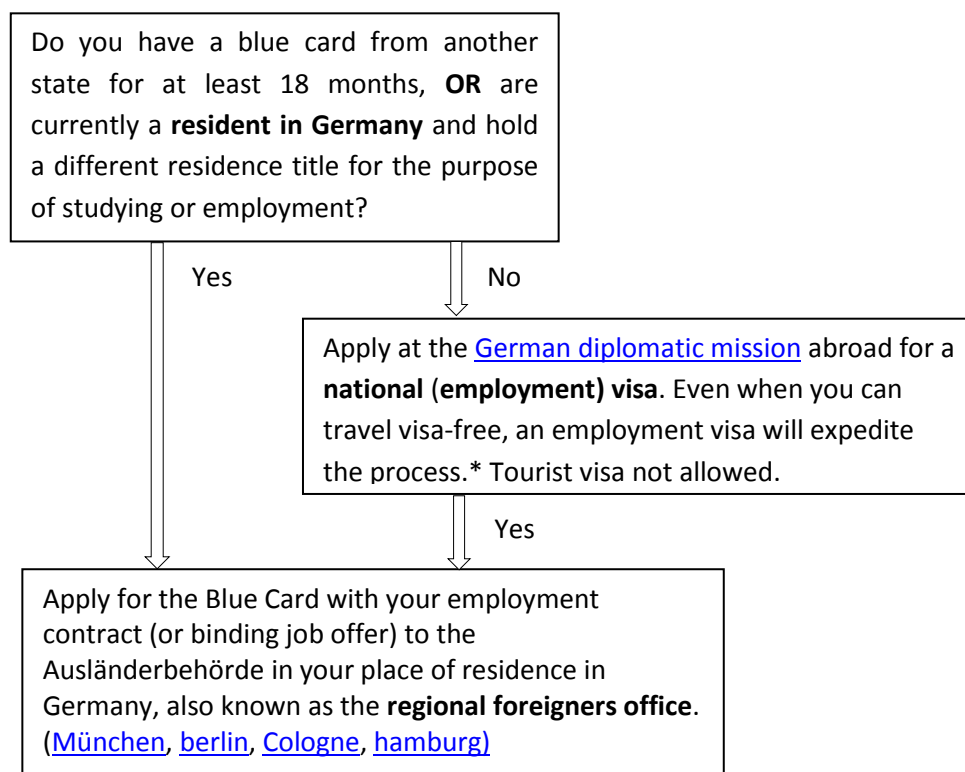
The “EU Blue Card” is a single residence- and work permit. The permit is linked to the holder, not the job.

## ➤ Eligibility for the EU Blue Card Germany



\*) 2023 Salary requirement for Germany. Pre-2023 blue card holders with running employment contract do not have to comply with new salary requirement.

## ➤ Obtaining the Blue Card



\*) Citizens of the United Kingdom, USA, Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland and South Korea **do not need a visa** to travel to Germany. It is however recommended to apply for an employment visa as it allows you to work immediately upon arrival.

Persons who have already been in the possession of an EU Blue Card issued by another member state of the European Union for at least 18 months can enter Germany visa-free and submit the application for an EU Blue Card after having entered Germany. This application has to be submitted to the corresponding foreigners authority within one month after entering Germany.

### Processing time

Immigration service approves and issues the blue card within days to weeks, depending on the backlog of applications. Maximum processing time is three months.

### Duration of validity

The blue card is issued for a maximum term of four years. The job contract term is leading for the initial term of the blue card. The Blue card will indicate an additional three months in the end date. The blue card may be renewed multiple times.

Minimum employment contract term for the Blue Card is six months.

### Changing jobs

In the first **12 months** employment, authorization needs to be acquired from the immigration services to change jobs within Germany. After 12 Months the card holder is allowed to take up employment in another blue card issuing country.

In case of unemployment, the blue card remains valid for three months enabling the holder to find a new job, and **six months** if you had the blue card more than two years. The EU Blue Card holder shall communicate the beginning of the period of unemployment to the competent authorities of the Member State of residence, in accordance with the relevant national procedures.

### Family reunification

Spouse and siblings (under 18) may join the blue card holder. They do not have to meet the requirements for the blue card. Visa for spouse and children **may** be issued upon issuance of a national visa to the (prospective) blue card holder, so they can travel together. Consult German diplomatic mission for details on issue dates.

### Self-employment

Under certain circumstances the blue card holder can start activities as an entrepreneur, a self-employed person. These circumstances are not defined at time of writing.

### Key advantages of blue card Germany to holder:

- Permanent residency after 33 months. If you can prove that your acquired language skills comply with level B1 of the Common European Reference Framework for Languages (CEFR), you can obtain your **permanent residence** permit after just 21 months.
- The EU Blue Card entitles the holder to spend visa-free periods of up to 90 days within a 180-day period in the other [Schengen States](#) for the purpose of tourism and **limited business activities as well**. Holders of an EU Blue Card can enter another Member State without a visa after 12 months and apply for the EU Blue Card of that Member State within a period of one month.
- Stay in **non-EU** countries for up to 12 consecutive months without your blue card expiring. This provision also includes family members.
- Spouse of blue card holder has access to labour market.

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