

*Make it in*  
**Rheinland-Pfalz**

**Welcome  
Center**  
Rheinland-Pfalz



**Rheinland-Pfalz**  
DIE LANDESREGIERUNG

Opportunities after graduating

Rhineland-Palatinate

# INVITES YOU TO STAY

A guide for international graduates in Rhineland-Palatinate



## BOOST YOUR CAREER – STAY IN RHINELAND-PALATINATE

You have already experienced **Rhineland-Palatinate** and the way of life in this region as an international student. Now you are nearing graduation and wondering what to do next? Regardless of which country you come from – Rhineland-Palatinate offers you **excellent prospects** to find your dream job, make a career in research, or start your own business. As an international graduate all options are open to you.

**We explain why it pays to stay here, and what opportunities Rhineland-Palatinate can offer you.**



Picture: Xantiana via Getty Images

## 7 GOOD REASONS TO STAY IN RHINE-LAND-PALATINATE

**Rhineland-Palatinate** has so much to offer. You may think you know the region well, but there is always something **new to discover**. So let us surprise you.

**We explain why it pays to stay in Rhineland-Palatinate.**

## LOW UNEMPLOYMENT – EXCELLENT JOB PROSPECTS

If you are looking for a job, you have come to the right place. For years, Rhineland-Palatinate has had one of the lowest unemployment rates in Germany. Regardless of whether you seek a career in the chemical industry, mechanical engineering, viticulture, or science – there is something for everyone!

1

## DYNAMIC ECONOMY – STRONG SECTORS

Rhineland-Palatinate, renowned for its strong industry and stable economy, is one of Europe's regions with above-average economic power. The key industrial sectors are the **chemical industry**, the **manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers, and semi-trailers**, and **mechanical engineering**. Research into cutting-edge technologies is conducted in Rhineland-Palatinate. **Kaiserslautern** has outstanding research infrastructure – and is a good starting point for international success in the tech industry.

2

## FROM GLOBAL PLAYERS TO HIDDEN CHAMPIONS

Rhineland-Palatinate's mix of world-renowned corporations and family-run Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises is the backbone of the region's economy. The state is primarily home to global players in the chemical and pharmaceutical industry. Not only that: Rhineland-Palatinate's **hidden champions** – both innovative and traditional companies specializing in the manufacture of construction machinery, high-tech bicycles, or well-known food products – have also managed to conquer global markets long ago.

3

## INNOVATIVE RHINELAND-PALATINATE – GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

Based around the state capital of Mainz, companies and spin-offs from the university are engaged in the sunrise industry of biotechnology. In the innovative region in the northern part of Rhineland-Palatinate, alternative methods for the production and processing of metal, ceramics, and plastics are being tested. Environmental protection and sustainability are key to the federal state in this context. Did you know that the Palatinate municipality of Weilerbach is a **zero-emission village** that uses 100% renewable energy sources?

4

## FAMILY-FRIENDLINESS

Besides being a great place to work, Rhineland-Palatinate also attaches great importance to **family-friendliness**. After all, unlike in many other federal states, childcare in Rhineland-Palatinate is free of charge for children at the age of 2 and upwards. This helps you to achieve a healthy work-life balance.

5

## LIVE WHERE OTHERS GO ON VACATION

Yes, you too can settle in the green state of Rhineland-Palatinate! It comes as no surprise that the region around the **German Wine Route** has earned the title of “Germany’s Tuscany”. But it is not only the sun-drenched wine regions that make life here a truly natural experience: Dense forests and valleys, picturesque national parks, crater lakes steeped in history, and river and lakeside landscapes offer the perfect opportunity for forest bathing, relaxation, and outdoor activities. Fancy a quick trip to **Belgium**, a day out in **Luxembourg**, or a weekend in **France**? If you enjoy traveling and value an international atmosphere, then Rhineland-Palatinate is the place for you, being in the heart of Europe.

6

## HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE

*Carpe diem* in Rhineland-Palatinate: Discover attractive recreational opportunities in livable cities or natural areas in the region. You can look forward to excellent infrastructure, a robust healthcare system, and secure job prospects for your future. Rhineland-Palatinate promises a high quality of life in many areas, a key factor contributing to happiness. Let yourself be captivated by the locals’ exuberance and joie de vivre in Rhineland-Palatinate at **wine festivals**, **Rhine in Flames**, or during the carnival festivities.

7

# ONE QUALIFICATION – MANY OPPORTUNITIES: WHAT AWAITS YOU IN RHINELAND-PALATINATE AFTER GRADUATING

Whether you intend to enter the job market, pursue further education opportunities, or establish your own business – Rhineland-Palatinate offers **numerous opportunities** for self-fulfillment.

## FINDING THE RIGHT JOB

Rhineland-Palatinate is an attractive place to work in Germany, given that the business landscape is dominated by strong export companies that also do business abroad. **International and intercultural teams** are the order of the day for both large companies and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises. Enterprises in Rhineland-Palatinate are always on the lookout for qualified employees and in need of **highly educated graduates** like you.



Picture: Oliver Rossi via Getty Images

## WHERE TO LOOK FOR JOBS:



ONLINE

### COMPANY WEBSITES

Perhaps you have already spotted an interesting firm or come across certain company names during your job research? Most companies publish vacancies on their **website** or have their own **career portals** where you can submit your online application directly. It may also be worth sending an unsolicited application to the company of your choice.

### ONLINE JOB PORTALS

Use Germany's leading **online job boards** to search for jobs in Rhineland-Palatinate. For jobs in the private sector, these include providers such as Stepstone, Indeed, Monster, and meinestadt.de. Vacancies for research and public sector jobs are also posted on sites such as EURAXESS Germany, academics and bund.de.

### FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

The Federal Employment Agency's JOBBÖRSE is **Germany's largest online job portal**. Besides being able to search for jobs, you can also create your personal profile for interested companies to view, enabling them to contact you directly. There is also a JOBBÖRSE app.

### “MAKE IT IN GERMANY” JOB LISTINGS

The “Make it in Germany” **portal** also lists current job opportunities, including [vacancies in Rhineland-Palatinate](#). All employers who have expressly agreed to their vacancies being published on “Make it in Germany” welcome applications from international qualified professionals.



## CONTACTS

### JOB FAIRS AT UNIVERSITY

Be sure to take advantage of the **information sessions** held at your university or other universities to get advice on your future career. A **job or career fair** can be an ideal place to communicate with potential employers from the region. This way, you can get to know a company and its employees in advance – before applying.

### SOCIAL BUSINESS NETWORKS

Why not post your profile on various **online business networks**, and show the world what you can do and where your strengths lie? This way, interested companies or headhunters can take notice of you and contact you. LinkedIn and Xing are among the leading business networks.

### PERSONAL BUSINESS CONTACTS

Maybe you have already completed an internship or worked part-time in a company as a student assistant. Then now is the time to **tap into your contacts** – you may just find the ideal position.



## TIP

The services offered by **university career centers** will also help you launch your career. Team up with fellow students to practice writing **job applications** and **performing well in interviews**. You may also find it helpful to undergo training before attending an assessment center.

## HOW TO MANAGE YOUR RESIDENCE

You can stay in Germany for up to **18 months after your studies - to look for a job**. During these 18 months you are allowed to take up any kind of job to secure your livelihood.

### DEGREE COMPLETED?

Are you from a third country and would like to stay and work in Germany after graduating? Then you have the option of obtaining a **residence permit valid for up to 18 months to look for a job**. Enough time to search for a job that matches your qualifications!

To **apply for a residence permit**, please contact your local Foreigners Authority. The following requirements must be met in order to obtain a residence permit for 18 months:

- Proof of **degree**
- Proof of **health insurance coverage**
- Proof of your ability to **secure your livelihood**

### FOUND A JOB?

**Then apply for a residence permit!**

Once you have found a job that matches your qualifications, you can either apply for a **residence permit** for qualified employment or an **EU Blue Card**. To apply for a residence permit, please contact your local Foreigners Authority. The following requirements must be met:

- Proof of **degree**
- Proof of **health insurance coverage**
- Proof of your **ability to secure your livelihood (employment contract)**
- EU Blue Card: please note that you need to earn a certain **minimum gross salary**



TIP

After studying in Germany, **graduates from the European Union, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Iceland or Norway** are free to stay in Germany, to work, conduct research, or establish a company. They **do not need a visa** or residence permit due to the freedom of movement in the EU.





## DID YOU KNOW?

### As an international graduate, you have the best prospects of living permanently in Germany.

As an international graduate, you have the best prospects of being able to live permanently in Germany. It is usually possible to apply for a settlement permit after having worked here for a few years. A settlement permit allows you to stay in Germany permanently. If, for example, you have obtained an **EU Blue Card** to take up employment, you can apply for a settlement permit after just **27 months**. This period can be shortened to **21 months** if you can demonstrate B1-level German language skills.



Picture: wecand via Getty Images

## SHAPING INNOVATION: DOING RESEARCH AND A PHD IN RHINELAND-PALATINATE

As a **high-tech region**, Rhineland-Palatinate has excellent research infrastructure. You can therefore look forward to a wide range of research activities: Depending on the institution, the focus is on the **natural sciences**, **medicine**, the **humanities and social sciences**, or **engineering**. You may also like to pursue a PhD or research at a university, a research institution, or a research company.

Some of Germany's major research institutions are based in Rhineland-Palatinate.

Examples include the Max Planck Society (MPG), Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft (FhG), the Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres (HGF), the Leibniz Association (WGL), and other centers and institutes. In addition, each university and higher education institution has a research profile based on its strengths.

You will find extensive information on doing a PhD in Germany at [www.research-in-germany.org/en.html](http://www.research-in-germany.org/en.html).



DID YOU  
KNOW?

### ... that researchers are eligible for several different residence permits?

Are you from a "third country" and would like to pursue research in Germany after graduating? You will need one of the following **residence permits** to pursue a doctorate in Germany:

- a residence permit for **study purposes**
- a residence permit for **research purposes**
- an **EU Blue Card**
- a residence permit for **skilled workers** (Section 18b (1) of the Residence Act (AufenthG))

Before submitting your application, please contact your local Foreigners Authority to find out which documents you need to present.

## BEING YOUR OWN BOSS: SETTING UP YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Do you have an innovative idea? University graduates wishing to start their own business in Rhineland-Palatinate can look forward to promising prospects. A **diverse economic structure, stable political conditions, and direct access to neighboring countries** – Rhineland-Palatinate offers ideal conditions for startups.

Help is always at hand for people wanting to **set up a business** in Rhineland-Palatinate. Many higher education institutions offer several services to help their students launch a startup. Build a valuable **network** by contacting spin-offs generated by your university. There is a vibrant, innovative, and **future-oriented startup scene** in Rhineland-Palatinate. Cities such as Mainz and Kaiserslautern are regarded as startup hubs and offer excellent infrastructure. The startup centers in Rhineland-Palatinate will provide you with **individual guidance** on your startup plans – irrespective of the **sector** in which you intend to become self-employed. Secure financial and non-material resources by applying to one of the state **government's support programs**.





## DID YOU KNOW?

### A specific residence title may apply to you, depending on the area in which you are setting up your business:

As a graduate from a third country, you will need a residence permit to start a business in Germany. You should apply for the relevant **residence title** from your local Foreigners Authority, depending on your entrepreneurial venture:

- You will need a residence permit for the purpose of self-employment to **set up a commercial business**.
- If you wish to work in a freelance profession on a self-employed basis, you will need to apply for a residence permit for the purpose of **self-employment**.



## TIP

As a university graduate, you can **operate a business** or pursue a **freelance profession** on a self-employed basis in Germany. If you wish to open a trading company or a skilled craft firm, for instance, your business counts as a commercial business. If you intend to become self-employed as a doctor, lawyer, or engineer, for example, you will be working in a freelance profession.

# WHO CAN HELP ME? ALL CONTACTS AT A GLANCE

## Questions about residence and life, as well as general questions about integration:

- Welcome Center Koblenz: [www.ihk.de/koblenz/welcome-to-koblenz-5461126](http://www.ihk.de/koblenz/welcome-to-koblenz-5461126)
- Welcome Center Ludwigshafen: [www.ihk.de/pfalz/en](http://www.ihk.de/pfalz/en)
- Welcome Center Mainz: [www.ihk.de/rheinhessen/en](http://www.ihk.de/rheinhessen/en)
- Welcome Center Trier: [www.ihk-trier.de](http://www.ihk-trier.de)

## Questions about visas and residence rights:

- The Working and Living in Germany hotline: +49 30 1815 1111
- Your local Foreigners Authority:  
[www.make-it-in.rlp.de/en/work/search-for-local-contacts](http://www.make-it-in.rlp.de/en/work/search-for-local-contacts)

## Working in Rhineland-Palatinate:

- The Working and Living in Germany hotline: +49 30 1815 1111
- The Virtual Welcome Center of the Federal Employment Agency:  
[www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/service/contact-us/chat](http://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/service/contact-us/chat)
- Your regional contact at the Federal Employment Agency:  
[www.arbeitsagentur.de/ueber-uns/ansprechpartner](http://www.arbeitsagentur.de/ueber-uns/ansprechpartner)
- Your regional recruiting service: [www.make-it-in.rlp.de/en/work/job-search/looking-for-a-job](http://www.make-it-in.rlp.de/en/work/job-search/looking-for-a-job)

## German courses – online and in Rhineland-Palatinate:

- Goethe-Institut: [www.goethe.de/en](http://www.goethe.de/en)
- Adult education centers in Rhineland-Palatinate: [www.vhs-rlp.de](http://www.vhs-rlp.de)

## Economy, industries, and companies in Rhineland-Palatinate

- Information about the business location of Rhineland-Palatinate [www.gold.rlp.de/en](http://www.gold.rlp.de/en)
- Investitions- und Strukturbank Rheinland-Pfalz: Industry and market overview  
[www.isb.rlp.de/en/home.html](http://www.isb.rlp.de/en/home.html)
- Information about economic sectors: [www.mwvlw.rlp.de](http://www.mwvlw.rlp.de)

## Culture and recreation:

- Culture Office Rhineland-Palatinate: [www.kulturbuero-rlp.de](http://www.kulturbuero-rlp.de)
- Museum portal Rhineland-Palatinate: [www.museumportal-rlp.de](http://www.museumportal-rlp.de)
- Tourism in Rhineland-Palatinate: [www.rlp-tourismus.com/en](http://www.rlp-tourismus.com/en)

## Research:

- Science portal of Rhineland-Palatinate: [www.rlp-forschung.de](http://www.rlp-forschung.de)
- List of major research institutions: [www.mwg.rlp.de](http://www.mwg.rlp.de)
- Research in Germany: [www.research-in-germany.org/en.html](http://www.research-in-germany.org/en.html)

## Starting a business:

- Startup knowledge, course offers, funding and support [www.gruenden.rlp.de](http://www.gruenden.rlp.de)
- Advisory centers at Chambers of Skilled Crafts (HWK):
  - Koblenz Chamber of Skilled Crafts: [www.hwk-koblenz.de](http://www.hwk-koblenz.de)
  - Palatine Chamber of Skilled Crafts: [www.hwk-pfalz.de](http://www.hwk-pfalz.de)
  - Rheinhessen Chamber of Skilled Crafts: [www.hwk.de](http://www.hwk.de)
  - Trier Chamber of Skilled Crafts: [www.hwk-trier.de](http://www.hwk-trier.de)
- Advisory centers at Chambers of Commerce and Industry (IHK):
  - Koblenz Chamber of Commerce and Industry:  
[www.ihk.de/koblenz/welcome-to-koblenz-5461126](http://www.ihk.de/koblenz/welcome-to-koblenz-5461126)
  - Palatinate Chamber of Commerce and Industry: [www.ihk.de/pfalz/en](http://www.ihk.de/pfalz/en)
  - Rheinhessen Chamber of Commerce and Industry: [www.ihk.de/rheinhessen/en](http://www.ihk.de/rheinhessen/en)
  - Trier Chamber of Commerce and Industry: [www.ihk-trier.de](http://www.ihk-trier.de)
- Investitions- und Strukturbank Rheinland-Pfalz – support program for business startups: [www.isb.rlp.de/en/home.html](http://www.isb.rlp.de/en/home.html)
- Start.in.RLP startup grant: <https://gruenden.rlp.de>
- Support, guidance, and networking at the Founders' Workshop: <https://rlp.uwd.de/>





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