**Permanent Residence Card**

Obtaining a permanent residence permit in Germany, after five years of living in the country, allows you to stay in Germany indefinitely and gives you unlimited access to the German labour market.

Step 1: Document gathering. The required documents for PR in Germany vary depending on your nationality and immigration status. However, some of the most common documents include:

* A valid passport with 6 months validity
* A completed application form;
* Police Certificate;
* A certificate of language proficiency B1 Level (or A2 in some occasions);
* Work contract or proof of self-employment
* Up-to-date proof of health insurance coverage in Germany
* Copy of rental agreement for an apartment/house in Germany
* Copies of pay slips of the last three months
* Proof of contributions to the German Pension Fund (“Rentenversicherungsverlauf” & “Wartezeitauskunft”)
* Certificate of a successfully completed "Leben in Deutschland" or "Einbürgerungstest" Knowledge of German culture test.
* Proof of pension plan contributions (if you're over 45)

Step 2: Submit your application to the immigration authorities. Once you have gathered all the required documents, you can submit your application to the immigration authorities in the region where you live in Germany.

Step 3: Attend an interview with the immigration authorities. After submitting your application, you will be invited to an interview with the immigration authorities. **During the interview, you will be asked questions about your reasons for wanting to obtain PR in Germany, your financial situation, and your ties to the country.**

Step 4: Receive a decision on your application. The processing time for PR applications in Germany can take anywhere from 3 to 6 months. Once your application has been processed, you will be notified of the decision. You will then be notified to book a collection appointment.

Certain groups like highly-qualified people and Skilled workers will be able to acquire permanent residence after three years; while EU Blue Card holders will be able to acquire permanent residence after 27 months. Currently, to be granted permanent residence, skilled workers must wait four years; while EU Blue Card holders must wait 33 months.