

Employment on a student visa according to § 16

- A student visa gives you permission to work 140 full days or 280 half days per year (with a maximum of 20 hours per week).
- Not the weekly or monthly working time is relevant, but how many days / half days you actually work.
- Each working day with more than four working hours is considered a full day and each working day with up to four working hours is considered a half day.
- If possible, it is advisable to arrange the distribution of working hours in such a way that the permitted working days can be utilised to the maximum.

Example: A 12h week can be structured differently and can "cost" you different amounts of days.

12h distributed over 5 days = 5 half days à 2,4h → costs you 2,5 working days

12h spread over 2 days = 1 full day of 8h + 1 half day of 4h → costs you 1,5 working days

- Voluntary internships fall under the 120-day rule. Even if they are done free of charge.

The following exceptions are possible:

- For jobs that exceed the 120 days per year, the approval of the Federal Office of Immigration (and, if necessary, the Bundesagentur für Arbeit / National Employment Agency) must be obtained.
- Student assistant jobs (part-time) , compulsory internships that are part of your studies, or other activities as part of your studies: Here, the Immigration Office must be informed, but these occupations are not counted as part of the 120 days.

- Students with a residence permit according to §16 are only allowed dependent employment. The pursuit of self-employment (trade, freelance work, fee jobs, etc.) is not permitted and can lead to the loss of the residence title! However, you can contact the Immigration Office and apply for a permit for self-employment. For the permit, you must prove that you have clients who want to hire you on a freelance basis.

After graduation

- If you have successfully completed your studies in Germany, your residence permit can be extended for up to 18 months to find a job.
- The Immigration Office does not calculate these 18 months on the basis of the date of exmatriculation or the date of issue of the certificate, but as usual on the basis of the written announcement of the passing of your final examination. Please note: The date of the written announcement is often earlier than the date of issuance of the certificate and exmatriculation.
- The job must correspond to the qualifications acquired as part of the degree.
- If you seek the change of residence permit to search for a job, you will need the following documents:
 - Proof of successfully completed studies
 - Proof of health insurance coverage
 - Proof of securing your livelihood for the time you are looking for a job
- During the search phase for a job, you may work without any time restrictions. If you find a suitable job during this period, the previous residence permit can be changed to a residence permit for the purpose of employment.