



UK Government

UK TRANSITION

# KEY FACTS AND ACTIONS TO TAKE

for UK nationals living in Germany before 1 January 2021

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# WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT

On 31 January 2020 the UK left the European Union with a deal, known as the Withdrawal Agreement, which established a transition period that ended on 31 December 2020.

The Withdrawal Agreement secures, amongst others, the following rights for UK nationals who were living in Germany\* before 1 January 2021, as long as they remain living in Germany:

- ✓ residency
- ✓ right to work or study
- ✓ access to healthcare, benefits and education
- ✓ lifetime protection of pensions
- ✓ right to bring existing close family members to live with them in Germany

**In order to secure these rights you should request a new residence document by 30 June 2021.** The rights of UK nationals who have moved to Germany from 1 January 2021 onwards are subject to German law and are not covered in this info sheet.

## RESIDENCY

All UK nationals who were living in Germany\* before 1 January 2021 should **report their residence to their local Foreigners Authority** (Ausländerbehörde) by 30 June 2021 in order to get a new residence document (Aufenthaltsdokument-GB) confirming their rights under the Withdrawal Agreement.

This action is in addition to the general requirement to **correctly register their address (Anmeldung)** at their local registration office (usually called Einwohnermeldeamt or Bürgerbüro).

See our guidance: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/germany-residency/residence-documentation-for-uk-nationals-in-germany](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/germany-residency/residence-documentation-for-uk-nationals-in-germany)

## TRAVEL AND PASSPORTS

From 1 January 2021 you need 6 months validity on your UK passport for entry to most countries in Europe (not including Ireland). This requirement does not apply if you are within scope of the Withdrawal Agreement and travelling to Germany or within the Schengen Area. Check your passport validity at [www.gov.uk/guidance/passport-rules-for-travel-to-europe](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/passport-rules-for-travel-to-europe)

Ensure you also carry your new residence document (Aufenthaltsdokument-GB) when travelling.

[www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-germany#Passports-and-travel](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-germany#Passports-and-travel)

Please note that some Foreigners Authorities require a minimum passport validity in order to issue your new residence document.

## WORKING AND STUDYING

The Withdrawal Agreement protects the rights of UK nationals living in Germany\* before 1 January 2021 to **work and study** in Germany for as long as they continue to live in Germany.

**Frontier workers** must get a frontier worker document (Aufenthaltsdokument Grenzgänger-GB) from the Foreigners Authority at their place of work. .

# HEALTHCARE

If you were living in Germany\* before 1 January 2021, you will continue to have life-long reciprocal healthcare rights, as long as you still live in Germany.

If you are working in Germany, you can continue to have German health insurance and use your Germany-issued **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** when travelling, including in the UK.

If you are UK-insured (for example if you are a pensioner), your right to access healthcare through the **S1 scheme** continues to be protected. This applies even if you start drawing your state pension after 1 January 2021. Your UK-issued EHIC will remain valid for travel until its expiry date. You can then apply for a new card at: [www.nhs.uk/ehic](http://www.nhs.uk/ehic)

## PENSIONS

If you were living in Germany\* before 1 January 2021, your **UK State Pension will be exported and continue to be updated**, including if you begin to claim your pension after 1 January 2021. Your **past and future contributions** to EU, EFTA and UK state pension schemes will be equally protected.

For information on private pensions, please contact your provider.

## DRIVING

You should **exchange your UK driving licence** for a German one within six months of moving to Germany. If you were living in Germany\* before 1 January 2021, you can use your UK photo-card licence to drive in Germany until 30 June 2021, provided that it remains valid in the UK.

Your local Bürgeramt can advise you on where to exchange your licence. You will not be required to take a driving test.

<https://www.gov.uk/driving-abroad>

## DUAL NATIONALITY

The UK has no restrictions on dual nationality. Germany only allows dual nationality in exceptional circumstances. If you have applied for and met all conditions for **German nationality** before 1 January 2021, you will be able to retain your UK nationality when naturalising as a German.

UK nationals who hold dual nationality with another EU member state will not require a new residence document and should use their EU passport when travelling to other EU countries.

## FURTHER QUESTIONS?

Contact us at: [www.gov.uk/contact-consulate-berlin](http://www.gov.uk/contact-consulate-berlin) or call us at +49 30 204570, selecting the option 'Consular services'

*\*Throughout this info sheet 'living in Germany' refers to UK nationals who have exercised their freedom of movement in Germany before 1 January 2021*

