



Overview of the advantages and disadvantages of an EU Blue Card / temporary residence permit for research purposes

If the conditions for the issue of both residence titles are fulfilled, the foreign national has the right to choose. Each of the residence titles offers different advantages and disadvantages, which can be compared in the following overview:

Residence title	EU Blue Card	Temporary residence permit for research purposes
Legal basis	Sect. 18b(2) of the German Residence Act (AufenthG)	Sect. 18d AufenthG
Duration of issue	Sect. 18(4) Sentences 1 and 2 AufenthG The EU Blue Card is issued for four years . If the duration of the employment relationship is less than four years, the EU Blue Card is issued for up to three months after the end of the employment contract.	Sect. 18d(4) AufenthG The temporary residence permit is issued for at least one year . If the foreign national participates in a Union or multilateral programme involving mobility, the temporary residence permit will be issued for at least two years . If the research project will be conducted for a shorter period of time, the temporary residence permit will be limited to the duration of the research project.
Seeking employment (after performing the activity)	Sect. 20(2) in conjunction with (1) Sentence 2 AufenthG Maximum duration: six months The temporary residence permit only entitles skilled workers to pursue probationary employment of up to ten hours per week for which their training qualifies them.	Sect. 20(3) No. 2 AufenthG Maximum duration: nine months The temporary residence permit entitles the holder to pursue economic activity without restriction .
Permanent settlement permit	Sect. 18c(2) AufenthG People who hold an EU Blue Card and have basic knowledge of the German language (Level A1) can be granted a permanent settlement permit in Germany after 33 months , if they have pursued highly qualified employment and paid contributions into a pension scheme during this period. If a person has a sufficient command of the German language (Level B1) , this period is reduced to 21 months .	Sect. 18c(1) AufenthG People who hold a temporary residence permit for research purposes can be granted a permanent settlement permit after four years of residence at the earliest. This period is reduced to two years if the skilled worker has successfully completed vocational training or a course of study in Germany. A sufficient command of the German language (Level B1) is usually required.
Mobility	People who have held an EU Blue Card in another EU Member State for at least 18 months may enter Germany for	Sect. 18e AufenthG: Short-term mobility of up to 180 days for



	employment purposes without requiring a visa. The EU Blue Card must then be applied for at the competent foreigners' authority within one month of entry.	researchers who hold a residence title for research purposes in another EU Member State (notification procedure via the BAMF required). Temporary residence permit in Germany not required. Sect. 18f AufenthG: Residence for 180 days for mobile researchers holding a residence title for research purposes in another EU Member State. Temporary residence permit in Germany required. Further information can be found on the BAMF website .
Immigration dependants	of Dependants do not require a command of the German language to join an EU Blue Card holder.	Dependants do not require a command of the German language to join a holder of a temporary residence permit for research purposes.