

WELCOME TO LINDAU

A GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL
PROFESSIONALS IN LINDAU



**WORK, CONNECT,
THRIVE IN LINDAU**

Preparations

Navigating Lindau Made Easy

Housing: Tips for Settling in

How to Get Involved Locally

Essential Contacts You Should Know

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WARM GREETING FROM OUR SEMINAR

Dear International Professionals,

Welcome to Lindau – a beautiful town by Lake Constance and a place where people from many cultures live and work together. We are very happy that you are interested in starting a new chapter of your life here.

This brochure was created as part of a school project (*P-Seminar*) by students from the Bodensee-Gymnasium who wanted to better understand what it means to move to a new country for work. Our goal was to support international professionals by providing helpful information about living, working, and settling down in Lindau.

While working on this project, we used many different sources to make sure the information is accurate and practical. We visited local companies, talked to staff at the hospital, and worked closely with the *Ausländerbehörde* and the *Agentur für Arbeit*. In addition, we conducted interviews with international professionals who already live and work in the region. Their personal experiences were especially valuable for our brochure.

During this project, we learned a lot about the challenges international professionals may face, such as language barriers, bureaucracy, finding housing, or understanding the German work culture. At the same time, we also learned how many opportunities Lindau offers – both professionally and personally.

Talking to international professionals gave us many new insights. We learned how important openness, patience, and good support structures are when arriving in a new country.



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Many interviewees shared inspiring stories about their first steps in Germany, the difficulties they overcame, and how welcome they felt when they received help from others. These conversations helped us see Lindau from a new perspective.

This project would not have been possible without the support of many people and institutions. We would like to sincerely thank our teachers, local companies and institutions, the staff of Asklepios Clinic Lindau, the *Integrationsbeirat* Lindau, the *Ausländerbehörde* Lindau, the *Agentur für Arbeit*, the Press Office of the City of Lindau, vhs, bfz, the *Kolping Akademie* and the IHK for answering all our questions. We are also grateful to the *VR-Stiftung für Bürger am Bayerischen Bodensee* for sponsoring the anti-racism workshop, to *friedens räume* Lindau for providing the opportunity to present our project, and to Mrs. Hannes, a professional translator, for proofreading the complete document. Finally, we would like to thank all international professionals who generously shared their time and experiences with us. Their support and openness made this brochure possible.

We hope this brochure helps you feel more prepared and welcome.

Yours sincerely,

Zilan Dagli, Jasmin Heinemann, Mira Juhre, Lisa Reznik, Christopher Roberts, Anna Schnegans, Livia Siupiala, Bodensee-Gymnasium Lindau

“We are very happy
that you are interested in
starting a new chapter of
your life here.”



WARM GREETING FROM THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Dear skilled professionals,
Dear readers,

Lindau is a truly exceptional place - not only as a world-class holiday destination but, more importantly, as a wonderful place to call home. You have chosen to take a significant step by joining our community, and I would like to congratulate you on this decision. It is my great pleasure to welcome you warmly to the District of Lindau.

Before moving here, you may have already gathered many impressions of Germany, Bavaria, and our region. It is true that we cherish our traditions, enjoy our local festivals, and take pride in our heritage. Yet, Lindau is also a place of vibrant culture, modern lifestyle, and outstanding leisure opportunities. Whether it is enjoying our local culinary scene, visiting our summer festivals, or relaxing on the shores of Lake Constance, you will find plenty of opportunities to connect with people and build lasting friendships.

Beyond its beauty, our district is an economic powerhouse. Our local economy thrives on a diverse mix of industries, ranging from highly skilled traditional crafts and innovative medium-sized businesses to globally recognized industry leaders. Our labor market is exceptionally robust, offering you excellent long-term career prospects.

We are, however, also looking toward the future. Like many regions, we are navigating the challenges of digital transformation, a changing automotive industry, the strengthening of our healthcare sector, and the vital transition toward sustainability.



© Susanna Mölle

We warmly invite you to bring your expertise, your energy, and your ideas to the table. Quite simply: we need your talents, and we are delighted to have you with us.

Exciting years lie ahead as we shape the future of our region together. This brochure is designed to help you find your way and settle in quickly. On the following pages, you will find practical tips and essential information to ensure a smooth start.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the 11th-grade students of the *Bodensee-Gymnasium* and their teachers. As part of an English-language project seminar, they created this welcome guide with remarkable dedication and care. This was a demanding and extensive project, and the result is impressive. These young people have not just compiled facts; they have created a genuine "welcome guide" that reflects the openness and hospitality of our district.

Once again, a very warm welcome to the District of Lindau. I wish you every success in your professional career and all the very best for your personal future here with us.

Sincerely,

Elmar Stegmann
District Administrator (*Landrat*)

"We warmly invite you to bring
your expertise, your energy, and
your ideas to the table"





© Monika Keiler

WARM GREETING FROM THE MAYOR

Dear International Professionals,

Welcome to Lindau on Lake Constance! I am delighted that you have chosen our city as your place of residence and work. Lindau is not only a place of exceptional natural beauty, but also a city that embraces diversity and openness.

Qualified professionals like you are essential for the future of our region. With your knowledge, ideas, and experience, you enrich our businesses and our community. At the same time, we want to make your start as pleasant as possible. This brochure is designed to help you quickly find your way around and discover the many opportunities Lindau has to offer - both professionally and privately.

Take the opportunity to get to know our culture, our traditions, and our people. In Lindau, over 100 clubs are involved in sports, culture, and social activities - a wonderful opportunity to make contacts and actively shape community life.

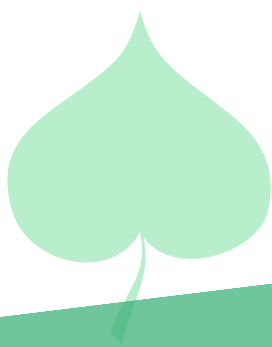
The “*Service Punkt Ehrenamt*” (=Volunteer Service Center) will help you find suitable contacts in clubs and get started with your volunteer work in a straightforward manner. We are delighted when new residents of Lindau get involved here and become part of our lively club scene.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the students of the P-Seminar “English” at Bodensee-Gymnasium for their initiative in creating this brochure.

I wish you a successful start, exciting encounters, and many wonderful moments in Lindau. Welcome to your new home!

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Claudia Alfons
Mayor of the City of Lindau (Lake Constance)



“With your knowledge, ideas, and experience, you enrich our businesses and our community.”

WARM GREETING FROM ASKLEPIOS CLINIC LINDAU

Welcome to Lindau on Lake Constance!

As international professionals, you already enrich our team with your expertise, experience, openness, and curiosity.

A quick look at Asklepios Clinic Lindau: As one of the largest private hospital operators in Germany, Asklepios sees itself as a companion to our patients and a partner to our employees. We bring together what belongs together: proximity and progress, cordiality and high standards, teamwork and appreciation, people and innovations.



© Asklepios Clinic Lindau

Asklepios Clinic Lindau is an acute-care hospital providing basic and standard care with 125 planned beds. Annually, with about 400 employees, we treat around 6,700 inpatients and 11,000 outpatients. We have a public care mandate and, as a hospital in the district, assume a central role in the medical treatment and nursing care of the population as well as visitors to the *Bodensee* holiday region.

“No matter which personal PLUS you bring to enrich our team - your PLUS makes us even stronger, and we are already looking forward to meeting you.”

Our modernly equipped clinic includes the departments of Orthopaedics & Trauma Surgery, Spinal Surgery, Internal Medicine with Acute Geriatrics, Gynaecology & Obstetrics, General Surgery with Urology, ENT, as well as Anaesthesiology & Intensive Care Medicine. We are the first certified Endoprosthetics Center on Lake Constance. Our medicine and training are characterised by the most modern procedures and techniques.

Our modern-equipped clinic needs strong professionals who, with their individual personalities, contribute to our TeamPLUS. We know what we want. We want you, your professional skill, your empathy, your energy... No matter which personal PLUS you bring to enrich our team - your PLUS makes us even stronger, and we are already looking forward to meeting you. You can view our job advertisements on our website: Stellenangebote - Asklepios Klinik Lindau. Applications can be sent by email to:

- m.rackette@asklepios.com
- j.ronnecker@asklepios.com (nursing professionals).

With diverse support services (assistance with recognition processes, help with finding accommodation, organisation of further training, assistance with authorities' communications) we support you professionally, organisationally, and personally - from onboarding to integration on site and at your start in Lindau.

We wish you a good start in Lindau, much success in your new career, and a wonderful time by Lake Constance.



© Asklepios Clinic Lindau

WARM GREETING FROM THE INTEGRATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

SHAPING DIVERSITY TOGETHER

The Integration Advisory Council actively promotes an open, diverse and respectful coexistence in the district of *Landkreis Lindau*. It represents the interests of people with a migration background, encourages dialogue between cultures and strengthens social cohesion.

Diversity is an opportunity - and it thrives on participation. The Integration Advisory Council brings people together, creates opportunities for exchange and gives important concerns a voice. It connects committed citizens, advises policymakers and administration, and develops new ideas for strong community life.

Through its work, people with a migration background can actively help shape life in the district and contribute their perspectives to political decision-making.

Get involved!

Get to know the Integration Advisory Council, attend our public meetings and share your ideas. Together, we can create a liveable future for everyone.

The Integration Advisory Council:

- represents the interests of people with a migration background
- advises policymakers and administration on integration matters
- strengthens cohesion, mutual respect and cultural exchange
- connects engaged individuals, organisations and initiatives



© Integrationsbeirat

Tasks and Objectives:

- further development of integration work in the district of Lindau
- improvement of the living conditions of people with a migration background
- advocacy for their interests and concerns
- promotion of participation in social, cultural, economic and political life
- development and implementation of its own projects and initiatives

Composition:

The Integration Advisory Council consists of 14 members who represent the district's population with a migration background, as well as additional permanent representatives:

- one representative from each political group represented in the District Council of Lindau
- four representatives from associations and organisations active in the district that, according to their statutes, promote the integration of people with a migration background
- the management of the Integration Advisory Council and a representative of the District Office

Office of the Integration Advisory Council

Christa Kottmayr

Bregenzer Straße 33

88131 Lindau

Phone: +49 8382 270206

Email: integrationsbeirat@landkreis-lindau.de

Further information: Integration Advisory Council/
District of Lindau

Discover Lindau

In the Tri-Border Region



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Lindau is a town located on the eastern shore of Lake Constance (*Bodensee*) in Southern Germany. The historic Old Town sits on an island and is known for its harbour lighthouse and lion statue. Lindau is close to Austria and Switzerland, making it easy to access neighbouring countries.

Good to Know:

Germany, Austria and Switzerland are all part of the **Schengen Agreement**. If you hold a valid Schengen visa, residence permit or national visa, you are allowed to travel to other Schengen countries for short visits (up to 90 days per 180 days) without needing a separate visa. However, this permission applies only to tourism or visits. **It does not grant the right to work in other Schengen countries.**

Our Tip:

There are guided tours through Lindau Island also in English, French, Spanish and Italian. Book your tour at the Tourist Information Office.

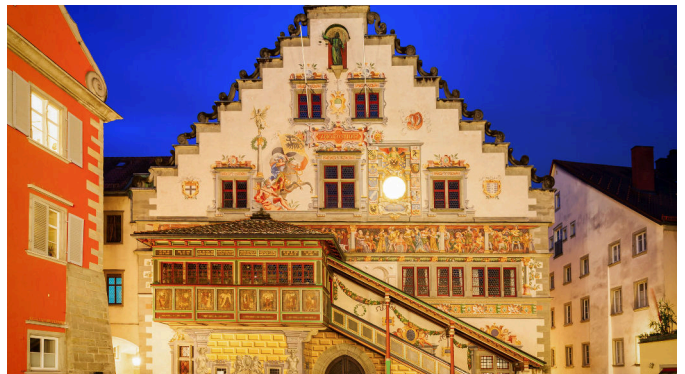


“*I really enjoy living in Lindau. The town's location on Lake Constance and its friendly community have made it feel like home.*”

Peter M., software engineer, living in Lindau since 2021, originally from Uganda



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Contact:

Tourist-Information
Alfred-Nobel-Platz 1
+49 8382 8899-900
info@lindau-tourismus.de
<https://www.lindau.de>



Stay up to date about Lindau:
www.stadtlindau.de
facebook.com/stadtlindau
instagram.com/stadtlindau

Career Opportunities in Lindau

A Region Open to Global Talent

“ *Meaningful work, encounters on equal footing, and the feeling of being needed give me a sense of belonging.* ”

Halyna Yanyshivska, project manager, marketer, job coach, in Lindau since 2022, originally from Ukraine

The Lindau region offers **attractive career prospects** in several key sectors. There is a strong and growing demand for qualified staff in **healthcare and elder care**, where skilled professionals play an important role in supporting the community's well-being. Furthermore, **engineering, manufacturing, and digital technology** are central pillars of the local economy, creating opportunities for specialists in technical and innovative fields. In addition, **tourism and business services** are important employers in this cross-border region. Together, these sectors provide diverse career paths and a welcoming environment for international talent.

Your Top Reasons for Choosing Lindau

1

High Quality of Life – Surrounded by lake, mountains, and vineyards, Lindau offers outdoor activities year-round (hiking, skiing, sailing, cycling).

2

Strong Economic Region – Located in the dynamic tri-border area of Germany–Austria–Switzerland with many global companies in tech, engineering and tourism.

3

Central European Location – Easy access to Munich, Zurich, and Stuttgart, plus quick international connections via Zurich Airport, Memmingen Airport and Friedrichshafen Airport.

4

Famous for Science & Innovation – Host city of the annual Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings, fostering a global scientific network and a culture of innovation.

5

Welcoming and Supportive for Newcomers – Lindau offers helpful services, community networks, and a friendly atmosphere for people immigrating to the town.



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Before You Get Here



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You have chosen Lindau as your new place to live and work - a great decision. Even before arriving in Germany, there are a few important steps to prepare for your move. These may include **applying for a visa**, **learning German**, **finding accommodation**, and **planning your professional career**. This section provides practical guidance to help you get started and feel well prepared for your arrival.

Further reliable information and free personal consultation before coming to Germany are available through the **Make it in Germany** portal, which offers online and telephone advice on living and working in Germany.

In addition, the **Goethe-Institut Pre-Integration Programme** provides free consultation and preparation services abroad, including language learning, everyday orientation, and advice on working and living in Germany.

The **Faire Integration Advice Centres** also offer free advice on employment-related issues for international workers in Germany, including information on labour rights, contracts, and working conditions.

Our Tip:

Get a free consultation from qualified experts at **Make it in Germany** or the **Goethe-Institute**.



Planning to move to Lindau

Get free online consultation

Start learning German

Look for a job and a flat

Get a visa

Useful Websites:

- **Make it in Germany:** <https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/>
- **Zentrale Auslands- und Fachvermittlung (ZAV):** <https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/vor-ort/zav/startseite>
- **Make it in Bavaria:** <https://www.stmwi.bayern.de/make-it-in-bavaria/>
- **Pre-Integration Goethe Institute:** <https://www.goethe.de/en/spr/mig/vuu/vin.html>
- **Faire Integration:** <https://www.faire-integration.de/en/>
- **“Working and Living in Germany” Hotline (BAMF & Federal Employment Agency):** +49 30 1815 1111

Checklist:

Important documents to bring to Germany



- **Valid passport** (and, if applicable, a national ID card)
- **Visa or residence permit**, if required
- Important documents (e.g. **birth certificate, marriage certificate, educational and professional certificates**)
- **Certified translations** of documents, if available or required
- **Health insurance** documents
- **Immunisation record**, if available
- **Copies** (digital and paper) of all important documents, stored separately



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Checklist:

Documents to present on official request



In Germany there is a legal obligation to provide identification upon request (*Ausweispflicht*). When asked, you must present these documents to authorities, and they may be temporarily held by officials if necessary. Copies are not sufficient; you must present the original documents.

- **Valid passport** from your home country (original required)
- **Visa or residence permit** (*Aufenthaltstitel*) showing your legal status
- **Passport substitute**, if applicable (e.g., travel document for foreigners or refugees)
- Any **additional document** issued by immigration authorities confirming your current status (e.g. a temporary certificate)

How to Get a Visa



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If you want to work in Germany, you must apply for a visa. Citizens of the European Union and some other countries are exempted from this. Most third-country nationals, however, require a visa to enter and take up employment in Germany. You can check here to see if you require a visa:

[https://www.auswaertiges-
amt.de/en/visa-service](https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/visa-service)



Where to apply for a visa

You must submit your visa application to the German embassy or consulate in your home country or another authorized German mission abroad. You can apply online for your visa through the Consular Services Portal, which simplifies the application process.

Fees

The processing fee for a Schengen visa is normally 90€ and the fee for a national visa (for longer stays) is 75€. Children under 6 years of age are usually exempt from visa fees, while minors under 18 years pay half the regular fee.

Good to Know

General requirements for visa for Germany:

- Valid (travel) health insurance
- Proof of accommodation
- Proof of sufficient living costs

Infobox

Proof of Sufficient Living Costs

What's that? Evidence that you have enough money to cover your living expenses (housing, food, insurance, etc.) during your stay in Germany.

Common ways to prove:

- Blocked account (*Sperrkonto*) with required funds
- Bank statements showing sufficient balance
- Formal obligation letter (*Verpflichtungserklärung*) from a sponsor
- Scholarship or grant certificate
- Employment contract with salary details

Typical amount: currently **€992/month** (for students/job seekers, varies by visa type). The required visa financial proof is calculated based on the current BAföG cost-of-living benchmark (BAföG is Germany's federal student financial aid program), which is adjusted regularly.

Processing time

Typically, German missions take up to 14 working days to process a Schengen visa application. During peak travel seasons, you may experience longer waiting times both for appointments and processing. For skilled professionals and certain priority cases, faster processing may be possible through the Fast-Track Procedure for Skilled Workers. This procedure must be initiated by the future employer in Germany with the local immigration authority and cannot be requested by applicants on their own. Specific eligibility criteria apply, and additional fees may be charged for the fast-track procedure.

Important Note

You can only start working after you receive the residence permit!

Infobox:

Visa-compliant (travel) health insurance

Temporary (travel) health insurance is usually required when applying for a German work visa and must already be arranged in your home country. It covers medical emergencies and basic treatment from your arrival in Germany until you start working and are enrolled in German health insurance. You can apply online through German insurers that offer visa-compliant travel health insurance, such as

- **Advigon** (www.advigon.com)
- **Care Concept** (<https://www.care-concept.de/>)
- **DR-WALTER – PROVISIT-VISUM** (www.provisit-visum.de)
- **HanseMerkur** (www.hmr.de)
- **MAWISTA** (www.mawista.com)
- **ReisePolice** (www.reisepolice.de).

Typical costs range from €30 to €80 per month, depending on age, duration, and coverage. This insurance is intended as a short-term solution and must be replaced by German public or private health insurance once employment begins.

Useful Websites:

Federal Foreign Office:

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/visa-service>

Make it in Germany:

<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/looking-for-foreign-professionals/entering/visa-requirements>



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Our Tip:

If you already have a job offer in Lindau, ask your employer to use the Fast-Track Procedure for Skilled Workers to help speed up qualification recognition and visa appointments. Once preliminary approval is issued, German missions abroad will grant you a visa appointment within a few weeks.



Skilled Immigration Act

(*Fachkräfteeinwanderungsgesetz*):

A German federal law aimed at simplifying and expanding immigration rules for qualified skilled workers from non-EU countries to work and live in Germany.

- quicker visa issuances (priority handling)
- simplified recognition of foreign qualifications
- faster and easier family reunification procedures for skilled workers and their families



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Visa Categories



Useful Website:

The **Visa-Navigator** of the Federal Foreign Office helps you find out which visa category is right for you:

<https://digital.diplo.de/navigator/en/visa>

Category	Work allowed?	German required?	Additional Key Requirements
Tourist/ Visitor/ Short-Stay Schengen Visa (maximum 90 days)	No	No	Return ticket
Language Course Visa	No	No	Enrolment in recognised intensive language course
Residence Permit for Voluntary Social Service (FSJ/BFD)	Limited to the voluntary service	Usually A2-B1 recommended, sometimes required by host	Proof of acceptance by a recognised FSJ or BFD organisation in Germany
Student Visa/Student Residence Permit	Limited (120 full days/240 half-days per year)	German-taught: B2-C1 English-taught: no	- Proof of admission to German university - Language proficiency (varies)
Vocational Training (<i>Ausbildung</i>) Visa (§16a)	Yes (as part of training)	Usually B1	- Training contract with a German company - approval by authorities
Job-Seeker Visa (up to 6 months)	No	No	- Recognised qualification (vocational or academic) - Purpose: job search
New since 2024: Opportunity Card (" <i>Chancenkarte</i> ") (up to 12 months)	20 h/week and short trial work	A1 German or B2 English	- Points system or recognised qualification - Purpose: job search
Self-Employment-Freelancer Permit (§21)	Self-employment	No	- Viable business plan - Demonstrated economic interest or benefit to region - Financing secured (own funds or loan) - Professional permits if required (e.g., architects, medics)

Category	Work allowed?	German required?	Additional Key Requirements
Experienced Professionals/Work Experience Route	Yes	No	• Several years of relevant professional experience • job offer matching background • qualification and experience must be proven
Qualified Professionals (Vocational Training) (§18a)	Yes	Often required A2-B1	• Recognised vocational qualification • Job offer in related field • Labour Agency approval
Qualified Professionals (Academic) (§18b)	Yes	No (unless job requires)	• Recognised university degree • Job offer in qualified field • Federal Employment Agency approval (unless exempt)
Skilled Workers Shortage Occupation Permit (§18c)	Yes	Usually, B1 mandatory	• Skilled workers with vocational training in shortage occupations e.g. health care, IT (special fast-track) • Job offer in shortage occupation
Researcher Permit (§18d)	Yes	No	• Hosting agreement with research institution
Residence Permit - IT Specialists Without Formal Qualifications (§18e)	Yes	No	• IT professionals with ≥3 years relevant experience • job offer
EU Blue Card (§18g)	Yes	No	• Recognised university degree (German or equivalent) • Job offer in Germany related to qualification • Salary must meet annual minimum Blue Card threshold
Family Reunification Visa	Yes	A1 German required	• Proof of relationship • Housing • Income

How to Start Learning German



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Before coming to Germany, it is recommended to learn at least basic German. Knowledge of the German language will help you integrate more easily, navigate everyday life, and feel at home in your new environment. In addition, some visa and residence permit categories require proof of a certain level of German before entry or during the application process.

A1	Basic phrases, simple interaction
A2	Understand and use everyday expressions
B1	Handle familiar situations, simple connected text
B2	Understand complex texts, fluent interaction
C1	Express fluently, understand implicit meaning
C2	Near-native fluency and comprehension

German can be learned in many countries before moving to Germany. The Goethe-Institute (<https://www.goethe.de/en/lan.html>) offers German courses worldwide and is an internationally recognised provider of language training and certificates. In addition, many local language schools, universities, and adult education centres offer German courses at different levels. Online courses and learning platforms can also be a flexible option, especially for beginners or those preparing alongside work or studies. When choosing a course, it is advisable to select a recognised provider and, if needed for visa purposes, one that offers officially accepted language certificates.

Here are some well-known and reliable online resources for learning German, suitable for beginners and advanced learners:

- **Deutsche Welle (DW Deutsch Lernen)** – Free courses, videos, podcasts, and news in easy German
- **Goethe-Institute (Online Courses)** – Structured online courses and exam preparation
- **vhs Lernportal** – Free online courses from German adult education centres (A1-B2) (*Volkshochschulen*): <https://a1.vhs-lernportal.de>
- **Hub 4 Africa**: <https://www.hub4africa.bayern/>
- **Duolingo** – Beginner-friendly language learning app
- **Babbel** – Paid app with practical, everyday German lessons
- **Lingoda** – Online live classes with qualified German teachers
- **Busuu** – Language app with grammar explanations and community feedback

Infobox:

Translation Apps

Moving to a new country can come with language challenges, but translation apps can make communication much easier. Popular apps like **Google Translate**, **DeepL**, and **Microsoft Translator** offer instant translation for text, speech, and even images which is helpful for everyday conversations, reading signs, or understanding documents. Many of these apps work offline too, so you can use them without an internet connection. Using translation apps can help you feel more confident as you settle into life in Lindau and navigate new situations.

How to Find a Job



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If you are looking for a job in Lindau, you can start with the **major nationwide job portals**. These platforms are widely used across Germany and regularly list openings in the Lake Constance region.

Useful Websites:

- <https://www.stepstone.de>
- <https://de.indeed.com>
- <https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/de/arbeiten-in-deutschland/jobboerse>
- <https://www.jobware.de>
- <https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/jobsuche/> (Official Federal Employment Agency portal)
- <https://www.xing.com/jobs> (Professional networking & job listings)
- <https://www.linkedin.com/jobs> (International professional network)

Beyond national sites, several **regional and local job portals** focus specifically on Lindau and the surrounding Lake Constance / Allgäu area. These often include positions from smaller employers that may not appear on the larger platforms.

Useful Websites:

- <https://jobsambodensee.de>
- <https://jobs.meinestadt.de/lindau-bodensee>
- <https://www.allgaeujobs.de/stellenangebote/lindau-bodensee>
- <https://www.jobs-im-allgaeu.de/>

Local newspapers are also valuable resources, as many smaller employers still advertise in print and online. Checking their job sections can reveal opportunities not found elsewhere.



Useful Websites:

- **Lindauer Zeitung:**
<https://jobs.schwaebische.de/stellen/lindau-bodensee>
- **Bürgerzeitung Lindau** (Free bi-weekly local community newspaper distributed to households in Lindau): <https://bz-lindau.de/e-paper/>
- **Süddeutsche Zeitung** (regional & national jobs, with Bavaria focus):
<https://jobs.sueddeutsche.de>

Finally, many major employers in and around Lindau publish vacancies **directly on their own career pages**. It's worth checking these sites regularly, especially for healthcare, technical and manufacturing roles.

Useful Website:

- <https://www.asklepios.com/lindau/unternehmen/bewerber/stellenangebote/>



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“ I support international skilled professionals with preparing CVs and job application documents, registering on job portals, navigating the German labour market, as well as with many practical questions related to starting a professional career in Germany. ”

(Halyna Yanyshivska, project manager, marketer, job coach, in Lindau since 2022, originally from Ukraine)



© Halyna Yanyshivska

Checklist:

An application should include

1) A Cover Letter

- State the position you're applying for
- Mention how you found the job
- Briefly explain why you're a good fit
- Show enthusiasm and willingness for an interview

2) A CV / Resume

- Personal details (name, contact info, usually a photo and signature)
- Education and qualifications
- Work experience relevant to the job
- Skills and certifications
- Optional: hobbies or interests if relevant

3) Optional Attachments

- References or recommendation letters
- Certificates or portfolios (if requested)



Vocational training in Lindau

Lindau offers many opportunities for vocational training (*Ausbildung*) in fields such as healthcare, crafts, industry, tourism, and commerce. Start by searching online job portals like the Federal Employment Agency (*Agentur für Arbeit*) or regional platforms. Many local companies also advertise training positions directly on their websites. You can get personal support from the platform Make-Your-Move, the Employment Agency, the Chamber of Industry and Commerce (IHK), or the Chamber of Crafts (HWK).

Prepare a strong application including a CV and cover letter, and apply early. Vocational training usually starts in September, and many companies begin recruiting 6 to 12 months in advance.

Our Tip:

If you need support with your cover letter or CV, you can book a consultation appointment at the bfz (Uferweg 7). The staff there will be happy to help you.

Tel.: +49 8382 9651-33

info-ubo@bfz.de

Alternatively, you can contact the *Agentur für Arbeit* Lindau or book an appointment with a job coach such as Mrs Yanyshivska (IHK-approved).

hyanyshivska@gmail.com



Useful Websites:

- <https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/int/en/vocational-training>
- <https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/study-vocational-training/training-in-germany/find>
- <https://make-your-move.com/en/>
- <https://www.azubiyo.de/azubi-wissen/training-for-foreigners/>
- <https://www.goethe.de/prj/mwd/en/indeut-schandleben/sas/studiumundausbildung.html>
- <https://www.wir-sind-bund.de>

How to Get Your Papers Recognised

When you have completed your professional qualification outside of Germany and you do not have German papers, you will often need to get your qualifications officially recognised before you can start working in Germany.

The central starting point is the federal portal "**Anerkennung in Deutschland**", where you can check whether your profession is regulated and thus requires a recognition and which authority is responsible for your case.



Useful Websites:

- www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de
- www.make-it-in-germany.com
- Hotline "Working and Living in Germany: +49 30 1815 - 1111"

For many **non-regulated professions**, such as technical, commercial, or industrial jobs, the recognition of foreign vocational qualifications is handled by IHK FOSA (*Industrie- und Handelskammer Foreign Skills Approval*). IHK FOSA assesses your qualifications and issues an official statement of comparability, confirming how your foreign training matches German standards. While recognition is not legally mandatory for these professions, it is often highly recommended, as it can significantly increase your chances of finding a job and help employers better understand your qualifications. This recognition is also important for meeting immigration requirements under the Skilled Immigration Act. More information can be found at www.ihk-fosa.de.

For craft trades (*Handwerksberufe*), such as electricians, carpenters, bakers, or mechanics, the recognition of foreign vocational qualifications is handled by the Chamber of Crafts (HWK – *Handwerkskammer*). The HWK assesses your training and work experience and determines their equivalence to German standards. Recognition may be required, especially for master crafts (*Meisterpflichtige Berufe*), and can improve job opportunities and access to further qualifications.



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Non-regulated jobs

(e.g. IT specialists, many business roles, artists, some trades)

Regulated jobs

(e.g. doctors, nurses, pharmacists, teachers, lawyers, engineers)



- **Industrial/commercial professions:** IHK-FOSA
- **Craft professions:** HWK
- **Academic degrees:** ZAB

- **Healthcare related/state licensed professions:** *Regierung von Oberbayern*
- **General healthcare professions:** *Bayerisches Landesamt für Pflege*

Regulated professions in Germany require formal recognition before you can work under the official professional title. This includes state-licensed professions (*Approbationsberufe*) such as doctors and pharmacists, as well as general healthcare professions like nurses or therapists. In Bavaria, the responsible authority depends on the type of regulated profession: State-licensed healthcare-related professions are processed centrally by the *Regierung von Oberbayern*, while the recognition of general healthcare professions is handled by the *Bayerisches Landesamt für Pflege* (LfP).

Useful Websites:

- www.regierung.oberbayern.bayern.de
- www.lfp.bayern.de

Required documents

Usually, you must submit certified copies of your certificates, official translations, proof of work experience, and identity documents, either digitally or by post, depending on the authority. Starting this process early is recommended so you can begin working in Lindau with the proper approval already in place.



Checklist:

Documents for Recognition Process

- Certified and officially translated copies of certificates
- Identity documents

Infobox:

Translations and Authentication of Documents

You may be required to submit certified copies of your certificates as well as translations prepared by a sworn or publicly authorised translator, either in Germany or abroad.

Translations: Nationwide directories of translators and interpreters in Germany include justiz-dolmetscher.de and the BDÜ translator and interpreter search (<https://dolmetscher-uebersetzer-suche.de>), both of which can be used to find professionals (official sworn and certified translators/interpreters) in the Lindau region.

Authentication of documents: Photocopies can often be officially certified by local resident registration offices (*Bürgerbüro*), church authorities, or notaries in Germany. If you are abroad, certification may also be possible at German diplomatic missions (embassies or consulates).

Important note: Do not send original documents unless explicitly requested. Always clarify in advance whether the authority requires the original document, a certified translation, or a notarised copy.

Infobox:

Pre-Departure Training for Work in Germany:

Many training programmes help skilled workers to prepare in their home countries for employment in Germany. These initiatives typically include German language courses, vocational and technical training, cultural orientation, and support in connecting with German employers. They aim to bridge the gap between education and employment while facilitating professional integration in Germany.

Some examples are:

- **Afrika-Dual Training Initiative** – Offers vocational training in African countries according to German dual education standards, including language training and links to German employers. Prepares participants for work in Germany or enhanced employment at home: <https://www.afrika-dual.de/en>
- **hub4Africa** – Free courses and online vocational education. Prepares African professionals for employment in Germany with training in technology, business, and workplace culture: <https://www.hub4africa.bayern>
- **FIT for Climate** – The project supports vocationally qualified and experienced workers from Colombia and Uzbekistan who want to work in Germany's skilled crafts sector. It includes intensive in-country German language training, intercultural preparation, and adaptation qualification to bridge gaps between foreign and German occupational standards: <https://www.fitforclimate.de/en>
- **Hand in Hand** – Supports skilled professionals in India (e.g., electronics, mechatronics, metalworking, culinary) with German language courses, recognition of qualifications, and guidance for employment in Germany. Participants receive help with employer connections, visa processes, and integration: <https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/vor-ort/zav/projects-programs/crafts-technology-construction/hand-in-hand/indian>

How to Find a Flat

There are a variety of online portals, local resources, and newspapers to help you find a flat in Lindau.

Useful Websites:

- <https://wunderflats.com/en> (in English)
- <https://www.immobilienscout24.de/>
- <https://www.immowelt.de/>
- <https://www.immonet.de>
- <https://www.ebay-kleinanzeigen.de/>

Housing Cooperatives:

- <https://www.gwg-lindau.de/de/>
- <https://www.gkgw.de/>
- <https://eisenbahner-schwaben.de/>

Newspapers:

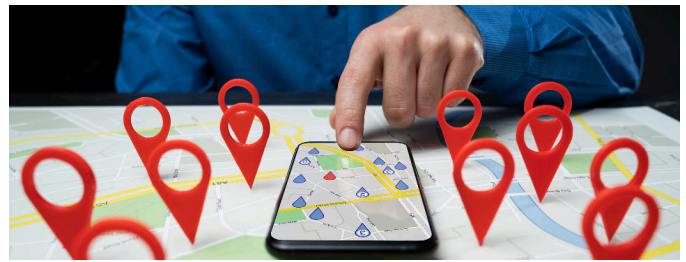
- Schwäbische Zeitung:
<https://immo.schwaebische.de/suche/mieten-in-lindau-bodensee>
- Süddeutsche Zeitung:
<https://immobilienmarkt.sueddeutsche.de/suche/mieten-wohnung-in-lindau-bodensee>

Local resources

Local resources also include social media platforms where you can find housing opportunities in Lindau. For example, facebook groups like “*Lindauer Immobilienmarkt*” or “*Lindau Wohnung/Haus mieten/kaufen*” are popular for connecting renters and landlords. Additionally, platforms such as Instagram and WhatsApp community groups can be useful for discovering available flats.

Our Tip:

Ask your future employer whether they can help with accommodation. Many employers, such as hospitals, offer staff housing for their employees. The rent is usually lower than for other apartments, and you can avoid long commuting distances.



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Housing cooperatives

There are also *Baugenossenschaften* (housing cooperatives) in Lindau that offer affordable and secure rental housing. A *Baugenossenschaft* is a cooperative organisation where members jointly own the housing and have a say in its management, often resulting in lower rents and stable contracts. It is worth checking their offers because they usually provide good-quality apartments with fair conditions and community-oriented living.

Rent in Lindau

Rental prices in Lindau vary significantly depending on neighbourhood, apartment size, building age, and amenities. Prime locations, such as the historic island (*Insel Lindau*) and lake-view areas, are considerably more expensive than residential outskirts or surrounding district towns.

- The average base rent in Lindau is around €14–15 per m².
- In high-demand central or waterfront areas, rents often reach €16–18 per m² or more.
- More affordable options can be found outside the city centre or in nearby towns within the Lindau district, starting at approximately €11–12 per m².

Sources: Miet-Check, ImmoReport, ImmobilienScout24

Temporary options

When looking for housing in Lindau, it is strongly advisable to come to the town in person and view apartments on site, as many landlords prefer personal meetings and this helps avoid misunderstandings or fraud. For temporary accommodation, there are numerous holiday apartments, especially outside the main tourist season, which can be booked for short stays. In addition, furnished short-term rentals are available via platforms such as Airbnb, Booking.com, and FeWo-direkt, as well as housing portals like WG-Gesucht, Immobilienscout24, Immonet, and eBay Kleinanzeigen. These options can be useful as an initial solution while searching locally for long-term housing.



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Lindau is a competitive housing market. Thus, it is advisable to be well prepared and submit a complete application to improve your chances of success.

Documents you usually need:

- **SCHUFA-Auskunft:** A credit report showing your financial reliability. You can order it online or at some banks.
(<https://www.meineschufa.de/#SCHUFA-Auskunft>)
- **Gehaltsnachweise:** Proof of income, typically your last 3 pay slips, to show you can afford the rent.
- **Selbstauskunft:** Tenant self-disclosure form, where you provide personal and financial details. (No official form, but standard templates are common. A sample can be found here: https://www.immobilienscout24.de/content/dam/is24/eigentuemer/dokumente/mieterselbstauskunft_immoscout24.pdf).
- **Mietschuldenfreiheitsbescheinigung:** Letter/certificate from your previous landlord confirming you have no outstanding rent debts (not mandatory, but often requested). A sample can be found here: <https://www.immobilienscout24.de/content/dam/is24/eigentuemer/dokumente/mietschuldenfreiheitsbescheinigung.pdf>.
- **Copy of your ID or passport:** To verify your identity.

Tips for Applying:

- **Apply promptly** after seeing a listing, as apartments get many inquiries quickly.
- Prepare all **documents neatly**
- Write a polite and concise **cover letter** introducing yourself.
- Be **punctual and professional** when attending viewings.
- Be **honest** about your situation (income, pets, duration of stay).
- Having a **guarantor** or additional financial proof can strengthen your application, especially for students or newcomers.
- **Protect your personal information:** Only share necessary documents and avoid giving out sensitive data too quickly. Be cautious of potential scams and verify that landlords or agents are legitimate before sharing personal details.

Beware of Scams (*Betrüger*)

Unfortunately, some scammers try to exploit the housing shortage by offering flats that don't exist. They often claim to be abroad and ask for money to be paid in advance to an online account before you can see the apartment. Never pay any money upfront and be very skeptical if asked to do so. Always verify the offer carefully to protect yourself from fraud.

Our Tip:

If you can't find a flat in Lindau town, it might be advisable to look in the surrounding towns or villages (e.g. Wangen, Isny, Friedrichshafen, Sigmarszell, Opfenbach, Hergatz). Rents there are usually lower, but you will need to commute. If you rely on public transport, make sure to check the bus and train connections carefully.



Housing Search: Useful Terms

When you read an apartment listing in Germany, it's important to know these key terms:

- **ZKB:** *Zimmer* (rooms), *Küche* (kitchen), *Badezimmer* (bathroom)
- **Zimmeranzahl (number of rooms):** usually excludes kitchen and bathroom
- **Kaltmiete:** rent excluding utilities; you pay utilities (e.g. heating, garbage, water) and electricity separately
- **Warmmiete:** rent including utilities but usually without electricity
- **Nebenkosten:** additional costs like heating, garbage, water
- **Strom (electricity):** tenants usually sign their own contract with a provider, usually not included in the rent
- **möbliert/unmöbliert:** furnished/unfurnished
- **Kaution:** security deposit (usually up to 3 months' *Kaltmiete*)
- **Küchenablöse:** one-time fee to buy the existing kitchen (optional)
- **Einbauküche:** fitted kitchen
- **Nachtspeicheröfen (night storage heaters):** *Nachtspeicheröfen* are electric heaters that store heat overnight using cheaper electricity and release it during the day. They are common in older apartments but can be less energy-efficient and more costly to run than modern heating systems.
- **WG (Wohngemeinschaft):** shared flat
- **Staffelmiete:** step-wise rent increase over time



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Infobox:

Electricity, gas and water (*Strom, Gas, Wasser*): After moving in, you usually need to register with an electricity provider (*Stromanbieter*). Water is often included in the *Nebenkosten*. Keep meter readings (*Zählerstände*) from the day you move in.

Electricity providers

In Lindau the electricity market works like in the rest of Germany: you can choose your electricity supplier (*Stromanbieter*), and if you don't choose one, you will automatically be supplied at the basic/standard tariff by the local utility.

Local utility

Stadtwerke Lindau, Auenstraße 12 (this is the local utility you will be supplied by if you do not choose a supplier yourself)

If you want to find better tariffs, green energy options, or special contract conditions tailored to your needs, you can compare and choose from many suppliers online. Several trusted comparison portals let you enter your postal code to see which providers offer contracts in Lindau, including pricing and terms: Check for example

<https://www.verivox.de;>

<https://www.check24.de/strom;>

[https://histrom.de.](https://histrom.de)



© Canva

Infobox:

Tenancy agreement

A tenancy agreement, called *Mietvertrag* in German, is a legal contract between you and your landlord that sets out the terms of renting a property. This includes details such as the rent amount, duration of the contract, and rules for using the apartment. It is important to read and understand the agreement carefully before signing.

Handover certificate

When you move in, you and the landlord usually complete a document called *Übergabeprotokoll*, or handover certificate. This records the condition of the apartment at the time you take possession, noting any damages or cleanliness issues. The handover certificate protects both you and the landlord by providing a clear record to refer to when you move out, helping to avoid disputes about the property's condition.

Our Tip:

If you have any questions or problems related to your rental agreement or your rights as a tenant, tenants' associations such as the *Mieterbund* or *Mieterverein* are good points of contact. They offer advice and support on a wide range of housing issues, although some may charge a membership fee or consultation fee.



Useful Websites

- www.mieterschutzbund.de
- www.mieterbund.de



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Social housing

If you have a low income and need help with your rent, you can apply for *Wohngeld* (housing allowance) through the Housing Office (*Wohnungsamt Lindau*). This financial support helps reduce your rental costs. Additionally, the *Wohnberechtigungsschein* (WBS) is a certificate issued by the city of Lindau that allows you to apply for social housing with reduced rent. To rent certain subsidised apartments in Lindau, you must have a valid WBS.

First Steps after Arrival in Lindau

After arriving in Germany, there are several important administrative steps to take. You will need to register your place of residence (*Wohnsitz*), possibly extend or update your visa, open a German bank account, and arrange health insurance.

This section provides practical guidance to help you manage these first steps smoothly. Further useful information for international professionals can be found on websites such as **Ankommen-App**, **Make it in Germany**, and the **Goethe Institute**.

Checklist:



What to do when you arrive?

1. Register your address (*Anmeldung*): Go to *Bürgerbüro* in Bregenzer Straße 12. Bring: passport and "*Wohnungsgeberbestätigung*" (landlord confirmation).

2. Get your tax ID

(*Steueridentifikationsnummer*):

This is sent to you automatically after registration.

3. Open a **German bank account**.

4. Make sure you have German statutory or private **health insurance**.

5. **Residence permit:** If you need to extend your visa/residence permit, go to the *Ausländerbehörde* in Bregenzer Straße 33. Bring: passport, biometric photo, work contract, and proof of address.

6. Register for **social security**: Often your employer will do this for you. You will receive a social security number (*Sozialversicherungsnummer*).

Register at *Bürgerbüro*

Update or extend your visa

Register for health insurance

Open a bank account



Useful Websites:

- **Ankommen-App:** <https://ankommenapp.de/>
- **Make-it-in-Germany:** <https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/>
- **Relocation Services Platform:** <https://sympat.me/> (some paid services)



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Registration

You are required to register your address **within two weeks** of your arrival in Lindau. This registration takes place at the Citizens' Office (*Bürgerbüro*) in *Bregenzer Straße 12*. Don't forget to make an appointment!



© Livia Siupiala, Bürgerbüro Bregenzer Straße 12

Important Note:

Appointments required

In Germany, most official offices such as the *Bürgerbüro* or *Ausländerbehörde* require an appointment. After booking your appointment, you will receive a **confirmation number** or **ticket number**.

You cannot enter or receive service at the office without this number. Please always book your appointment in advance and bring your confirmation with you!

Book an appointment in the *Bürgerbüro* here:
<https://reservation.frontdesksuite.com/lindau/termine>.

Checklist:



Registration

Where? Citizens' Office (*Bürgerbüro*)
Bregenzer Straße 12 or online.

Don't forget to make an appointment!

Bring

- passport / identity card
- confirmation from your landlord
 (*Wohnungsgeberbestätigung*) You find it here: <https://www.stadtlindau.de/Verwaltung/Dienstleistungen-A-Z/>
- residence / work permit

Useful Website:



- City website: www.stadtlindau.de
 (Online/*Bürgerservices*)

Our Tip:

You can also register online!
www.stadtlindau.de (Online
Bürgerservices)



After completing the registration, you will receive an official confirmation of residence (*Meldebescheinigung*), which you will need for other administrative steps such as opening a bank account or arranging insurance.

Visa Matters

If you have any questions or issues regarding your visa or residence permit, you will need to book an appointment at the *Ausländerbehörde* (Immigration Office) located at *Bregenzer Straße 33*. It is important to arrange your appointments in advance.

Useful Website:

<https://www.landkreis-lindau.de/> (Bürgerservice-Online-Dienste/Terminreservierung)



© Christopher Roberts, *Ausländerbehörde* (on the right) Bregenzer Straße 33

Frequently Asked Questions About Your Visa

1. When do I have to renew my residence permit?

You should apply to renew your permit at least a few weeks before it expires. Check the expiry date on your residence permit card and contact the immigration office early to avoid any gaps.

2. What documents do I need to bring when applying for renewal?

Typically, you need your current permit, valid passport, proof of income/employment, health insurance, and proof of accommodation. Additionally, you must provide a biometric photo with an embedded QR code, as required by German authorities. This photo must meet official standards and can be taken at certified photo studios or specialized passport photo services in Lindau.

3. How long can I stay outside of Germany without losing my residence permit?

Generally, you should not stay outside Germany for more than 6 months at a time. Longer absences may lead to your residence permit being revoked unless you have prior permission or special circumstances.

4. What happens if I change jobs?

If your residence permit is tied to a specific employer or job, you must notify the immigration office before starting a new position. In some cases, you may need to apply for a new permit or an amendment.

5. Can I travel within the EU with my German residence permit?

Yes, you can travel visa-free within the Schengen Area for up to 90 days within a 180-day period, but you must always carry your residence permit.

6. What should I do if my residence permit is lost or stolen?

Report the loss immediately to the local police and the immigration office. Apply for a replacement residence permit as soon as possible.

7. How do I apply for permanent residence? After typically 33 months (or 21 months with sufficient German skills and a Blue Card), you can apply for permanent settlement. Requirements include financial stability, language skills, and social integration.

8. Can I change my visa type while in Germany? In some cases, yes. For example, you can switch from a job-seeker visa to a work visa if you find a job. Consult the immigration office for your specific situation.

9. Can my family members join me in Germany?

Yes, depending on your visa type, your spouse and children may be eligible for family reunification visas. The process usually involves proving sufficient income and accommodation.

10. Can I apply for German citizenship while on a residence permit?

After several years of legal residence (usually 8 years), you may be eligible for naturalization, provided you meet language, integration, and financial requirements.



Opening a Bank Account

You will need a German bank account in order to receive your salary and manage everyday payments such as rent, utilities, and insurance. Most banks offer current accounts (*Girokonto*), which may involve monthly fees depending on the bank and services included.

Banks in Lindau

In Lindau, you can choose from several banks, including *Sparkasse Schwaben-Bodensee*, *Volksbank Lindenberg-Lindau*, as well as national banks (e.g. *Commerzbank*, *Postbank*) and online banks (e.g. DKB, N26, comdirect). Traditional banks provide in-person service and local support, which can be helpful when you are new to the country. However, they usually charge higher monthly account fees. Online banks are often cheaper or free, easy to open digitally, and offer English-language apps, but they usually do not provide face-to-face service or cash deposit options.



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Documents

To open an account, you usually need a valid passport, proof of address, and sometimes your residence permit.

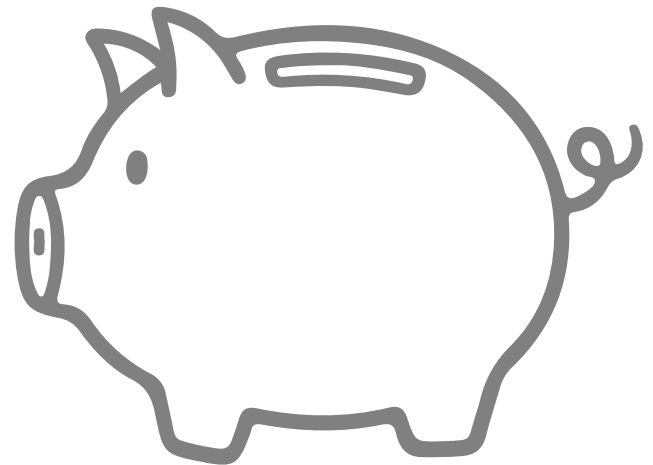
EC card and credit card

When opening a bank account, you will typically receive a debit card, commonly called an EC card or Girocard. This is the most widely accepted payment method in Germany and is used for everyday purchases and cash withdrawals. Credit cards are becoming more common but are not accepted everywhere, especially in smaller shops, bakeries, or restaurants. Many people use a debit card for daily spending and a credit card mainly for online purchases, hotels, or travel.



Useful Website:

- <https://www.deutscheskonto.org/en>



Our Tip:

Despite digital payments growing in popularity, Germany still has a strong cash culture. Cash is widely used, and some places may accept cash only, so it is advisable to always carry some cash with you.



Registration for Health Care

A German health insurance provider (*Krankenkasse*) covers medical costs such as doctor visits, hospital care, and prescription medicines. In Germany, there are two types of health insurance providers: public or government-regulated insurance (*gesetzliche Krankenkassen*) and private health insurance (*private Krankenkassen*), which is mainly available for self-employed people, civil servants, or high-income earners. Everyone earning below a certain income threshold is required to have public health insurance. Contributions to public insurance are income-based and shared equally between the employee and the employer. Examples of public health insurance providers include AOK, TK (*Techniker Krankenkasse*), Barmer, DAK, and others. A full list can be found here: <https://www.krankenkassen.de/gesetzliche-krankenkassen/krankenkassen-liste/>.

Your health insurance usually covers the following services:

- Inpatient and outpatient hospital care
- Prescription medications (subject to co-payments)
- Preventive medical check-ups
- Mental health care
- Rehabilitation services
- Basic dental care (advanced treatments require extra payment or supplemental insurance)
- Pregnancy and maternity care
- Outpatient (ambulatory) medical treatment

You can register for health insurance online or by phone. Generally, you will need to provide:

Checklist:



- A valid passport
- Proof of residence registration (*Anmeldung*)
- Your employment contract (if applicable)
- Previous health insurance documentation (if available)

If you choose private health insurance, you will usually also be required to:

- Complete a health questionnaire
- Possibly undergo a medical check-up

Many insurance companies also offer applications in English, and you can often start the application process online while still in your home country. For example:

- AOK Krankenkasse: <https://www.aok.de/fm/en-uk>
- Barmer: <https://www.barmer.de/en>
- Techniker Krankenkasse: <https://www.tk.de/en>

Family insurance

In Germany's public health insurance, non-working spouses and children are covered for free under family insurance. In private insurance, each family member needs their own policy, which can be more costly.



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Useful Websites:

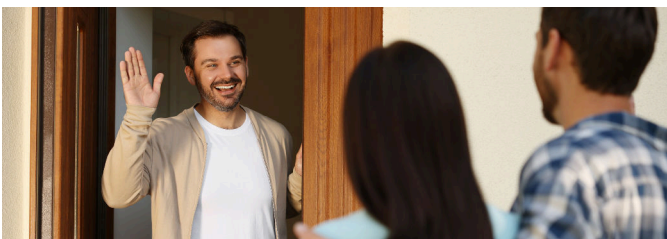
- <https://www.germany-visa.org/insurances-germany/>
- <https://green-stay.eu/how-do-i-register-for-health-insurance-after-moving-to-germany/>

Practical Living Information

When settling into your new life in Germany, many everyday questions arise. This chapter offers practical information to help you manage daily life with confidence. It covers important rules and customs, such as waste separation and airing out rooms, as well as how to find a *Hausarzt* and access medical care. You will also find general information on public transport, getting a German driving licence, and shopping. These insights are intended to help you feel at home more quickly and navigate everyday life with ease.

Housing: Tips for Settling In

Living in Germany comes with certain rules in apartment buildings that help ensure peaceful and respectful coexistence. There are several regulations that residents are expected to follow so that living together works well for everyone. Common examples include quiet hours (*Ruhezeiten*), during which noise should be kept to a minimum, especially at night and on Sundays, and *Kehrwoche*, a shared cleaning duty for hallways, staircases, or sidewalks. Other rules may cover waste separation, laundry room usage, or bicycle storage. Following these rules is considered part of everyday life in Germany and helps avoid conflicts with neighbours.



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Written Agreements and Inspections (*Mietvertrag, Übergabeprotokoll*):

Always read the rental contract (*Mietvertrag*) carefully. During move-in, document the condition of the flat in a handover report (*Übergabeprotokoll*) and take photos to avoid disputes later.

Garbage Separation (*Mülltrennung*):

Waste separation is taken very seriously. Typical bins include paper (*Papier*), packaging (*Gelber Sack/Gelbe Tonne*), organic waste (*Biomüll*), and residual waste (*Restmüll*). If you do not sort your rubbish correctly, you may have to pay a fine.



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Infobox:

Blue bin: Paper and cardboard, such as newspapers, school notebooks, and boxes, go into the blue bin.

Yellow bin/yellow bag: Plastic packaging, cans, and other lightweight materials like yoghurt cups, plastic bottles, and food packaging are put into the yellow bin or yellow bag.

Brown bin: Organic waste, for example fruit peels, vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, and garden waste, go into the brown bin.

Black bin: Everything that cannot be recycled, like broken ceramics, used tissues, or vacuum cleaner bags, is thrown into the black bin for residual waste.

Glass bottles and jars are usually taken to **special containers** in the neighbourhood, where they are separated by colour (white, brown, and green glass).

Garbage Collection (*Müllabfuhr*)

In Lindau household waste bins (*Mülltonnen*) for general waste, organic waste, and paper are collected regularly at the roadside. Residents need to put their bins out on the designated collection days, which can be tracked easily using the *ZAK Abfall App* (<https://www.zak-kempten.de/info-center/zak-abfall-app/>). This app provides reminders and the exact schedule for each type of waste. However, *Gelbe Säcke* (yellow bags), used for packaging waste like plastics and metals, are not collected curbside in Lindau. Instead, these must be brought by residents to the *Wertstoffhof* (recycling centre), where the bags are usually available free of charge. They can also sometimes be found at local supermarkets or hardware stores. Other waste types, such as glass, bulky waste, electrical appliances, and batteries, are also accepted at the *Wertstoffhof* or at public collection points. For detailed info on locations and schedules, the *ZAK Abfall App* or the local waste authority's website is the best source.

Pfandsystem (deposit return system)

In Germany, many drink containers such as plastic bottles, glass bottles, and cans are part of the *Pfand* system. "*Pfand*" means deposit. When you buy a drink, you pay a small extra amount (usually €0.25 or €0.08 depending on the bottle). This deposit is refunded when you return the empty container.



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Infobox:

Deposit return system: How do I get my money back?

- 1) Collect your empty bottles or cans.
- 2) Look for the *Pfand* symbol on the label to know if they are eligible.
- 3) Return them at a supermarket. Most supermarkets have a reverse vending machine ("*Pfandautomat*").
- 4) Insert the bottles or cans into the machine. The machine scans them and counts your deposit.
- 5) Take the receipt that the machine prints. Cash the receipt at the checkout or use it as a discount on your purchase.

The *Pfand* system helps reduce waste, encourages recycling, and rewards you for returning containers.

Cleaning Duties (*Kehrwoche*)

In many apartment buildings, tenants take turns cleaning shared areas such as staircases or sidewalks. This system is called *Kehrwoche*. Check the cleaning schedule (*Putzplan*) and follow it carefully.



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Quiet Hours (*Ruhezeiten*)

Germany has strict quiet hours. *Ruhezeiten* usually apply at night (10:00 pm - 6:00 am), on Sundays, and public holidays. Loud music, vacuuming, or drilling during these times is not allowed.

Broadcasting Fee (*Rundfunkbeitrag*):

Every household in Germany must pay a mandatory broadcasting fee (*Rundfunkbeitrag*), currently charged per flat, not per person. You must register yourself and pay it even if you do not own a TV or radio: <https://www.rundfunkbeitrag.de>.

Ventilation (*Lüften*)

Proper ventilation is essential. Open windows fully for a few minutes several times a day (*Stoßlüften*), especially in winter. Constantly tilted windows can cause heat loss and moisture problems.

Mould Prevention (*Schimmel*)

Mould can develop quickly if a flat is not aired or heated properly. Regular *Lüften* and adequate heating help prevent *Schimmel*. Tenants may be held responsible if mould results from incorrect use.

Heating (*Heizen*)

Heating costs can be high in winter. However, do not turn heating off completely, even when you are away, as this can lead to moisture and mould.

Useful Websites:



- **Broadcasting Fee:**

<https://www.rundfunkbeitrag.de/>



- **Garbage Collection:**

<https://www.zak-kempten.de/info-center/>

- **Garbage Separation:**

[https://handbookgermany.de/en/waste separation](https://handbookgermany.de/en/waste-separation)

- **Neighbourship:**

[https://bamigra.de/en/topics/living/neighbors hip-living-together/](https://bamigra.de/en/topics/living/neighbors-hip-living-together/)

Good to Know:

Stoßlüften is a method of ventilation where windows are opened fully for a short period of time, usually about five to ten minutes, so that fresh air can quickly replace the stale indoor air. It is more effective than other forms of ventilation because it allows a rapid exchange of air, removes moisture efficiently and helps prevent mould. At the same time, the walls and furniture keep their heat, so the room does not cool down as much as when windows are left slightly open for a long time. This makes *Stoßlüften* more energy efficient than keeping windows tilted open.



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Healthcare: How to Find a Doctor

General practitioner

Finding a general practitioner (*Hausarzt/Hausärztin*) soon after arriving in Germany is an important first step in navigating the healthcare system. S/he serves as your primary point of contact for most medical concerns and coordinates referrals to specialists when necessary. Having a registered general practitioner who is familiar with your medical history makes accessing care faster and easier, and helps ensure you receive timely support when health issues arise.

To find a doctor (*Hausarzt/Hausärztin*) in Lindau, you may use the online navigator offered by your health insurance provider or look through an online directory such as www.gesund.bund.de/en/. Make sure the doctor also accepts your health insurance provider. You can also filter for doctors who speak different languages, though matches in the proximity of Lindau might be rare. Then simply make an appointment by calling and bring your health insurance card along. Your personal data will be recorded, and you then officially become their patient.

Specialised care

Sometimes though you might need more specialised care, this is where a *Facharzt/Fachärztin* comes in. They are doctors who are specialised in a certain aspect of care. In some cases you will need a referral (*Überweisung*) to be able to make an appointment with them, which you will receive from your *Hausarzt/Hausärztin* if s/he, after you go to her/him with your complaint, deems it necessary.



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Medical certificate

If you are sick and cannot work on a given day, simply call your employer to inform them. If your illness lasts for more than three consecutive calendar days, you must obtain an *Arbeitsunfähigkeitsbescheinigung* (unable to work certificate) from your *Hausarzt*. You need to send or hand in this certificate to your employer by the fourth day of your illness at the latest (some employers may require it earlier).

Important Terms:



Hausarzt / Hausärztin: A general practitioner (GP) who is usually your first point of contact for medical concerns and coordinates further treatment or referrals to specialists.

Facharzt / Fachärztin: A medical specialist (for example a dermatologist or cardiologist) who treats specific conditions, often after a referral from a *Hausarzt*.

Überweisung: A referral issued by a doctor, usually a *Hausarzt*, that allows or facilitates treatment by a specialist.

Arbeitsunfähigkeitsbescheinigung: A medical certificate confirming that you are unfit for work due to illness, required by your employer and health insurance.

Rezept: A prescription from a doctor that allows you to obtain medication from a pharmacy.

Versichertenkarte / Gesundheitskarte: Your health insurance card, which you present at doctor's offices and pharmacies to prove coverage.

Sprechstunde: The consultation or office hours during which a doctor sees patients.

Useful Website:

- www.gesund.bund.de/en/



Public Transport: How to Get Around in Lindau

Lindau offers several types of public transport:

- **City buses** (*Stadtbus Lindau*) for travel within the city and surrounding districts
- **Buses** from the regional public transport network (bodo)
- **Regional and long-distance trains** (*Deutsche Bahn*) from Lindau main station and Lindau-Reutin
- **Ferries and passenger ships** on Lake Constance connecting Lindau with Austria, Switzerland, and other lakeside towns

City buses / Stadtbus

You can find schedules and route maps online at the *Stadtbus Lindau* website and *Stadtbus Lindau* App (bus timetables and route network). Furthermore, timetables are also posted at bus stops. The *Stadtbus Lindau* App can be customised to display information in English.

Useful Website:

- <https://www.sw-lindau.de/de/privatkunden/stadtbus/>

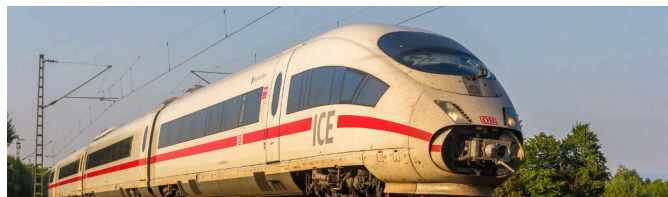


Bodo buses

Bodo operates multiple bus lines serving Lindau and the surrounding region, including school routes, regional lines and connections to neighbouring towns. Bodo tickets are valid on local buses (including the *Stadtbus*) and regional trains (RB and RE).

Useful Website:

- <https://www.bodo.de/>



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Regional and long-distance trains (*Deutsche Bahn*)

Lindau is served by *Deutsche Bahn* (DB) trains from both Lindau main station and Lindau-Reutin station. You can check train schedules and buy tickets via the DB Navigator App or the *Deutsche Bahn* website. Timetables are also displayed at train stations.



Useful Website:

- <https://www.bahn.de/service/mobile/db-navigator>

Ferries

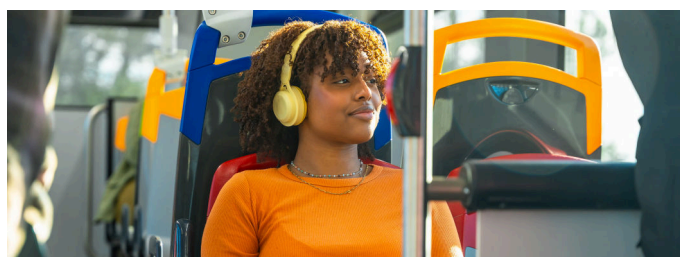
Ferries can be used for travel across Lake Constance to Austria or Switzerland.



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Useful Website:

- <https://www.bsb.de/de/bodensee-erlebnisse/rundfahrten/lindau>



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Tickets can be purchased in several ways:

- via the **Stadtbus Lindau App** (bus tickets)
- Via the **DB Navigator App** (train tickets)
- Via the **Bodo App** (tickets for the bodo region)
- From **ticket machines** at bus stops and train stations
- At **DB travel centers** or ticket counters
- Sometimes directly from the **bus driver** (this is not possible on trains, as you must have a valid ticket before the start of your journey)

Ticket categories

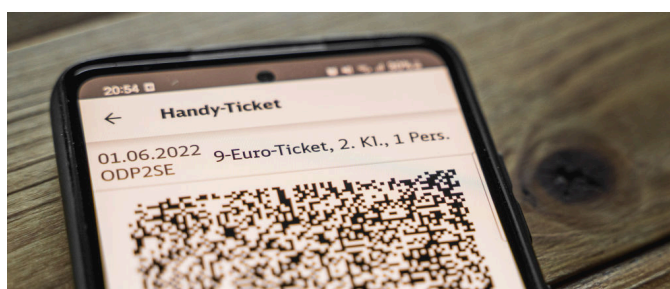
You can buy single ride tickets, day passes, weekly or monthly passes, season tickets, group tickets or the *Deutschlandticket* (valid nationwide on local and regional transport). The tickets for students, seniors or employees are often reduced. Seniors may qualify for special tickets and employees may receive subsidised tickets through their employer. Children can travel at reduced prices.

In many cases, you can use the same ticket for buses and regional trains, if the ticket is valid within the same transport zone or fare network.



Infobox:

The **Deutschlandticket** costs €63 per month and is valid nationwide on buses, trains, and trams for local and regional travel. It renews automatically each month and must be canceled by the 10th of the month to stop the next payment. Perfect for commuters and anyone seeking flexible, affordable mobility. Please note that it is **not valid** on long-distance high-speed trains (such as ICE, IC, or EC services).



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Bike ticket

Bicycles are allowed on regional trains, usually with a bike ticket, but on buses, bicycle transport is limited and often not possible during peak times. On ferries it is generally allowed to take them with you.

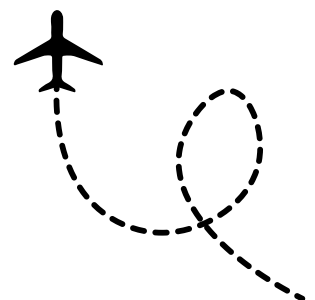
Airports

Here are several airports nearby, along with suggested public transport options for getting there.

- **Friedrichshafen Airport** – regional trains and buses
- **Allgäu Airport** (Memmingen) - accessible by train or bus
- **Munich Airport** – train connections via Munich
- **Zurich Airport** – train connections via Switzerland



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Driving: Getting a German Driving Licence



© Livia Siupiala, Führerscheinstelle, Stiftsplatz 4

Contact:

Führerscheinstelle (driver's licence office)

Stiftsplatz 4

fuehrerscheinstelle@landkreis-lindau.de

Telephone: 08382 270-0

The driving licence office will decide whether your licence can be transferred without a test or whether you must first pass the theory and practical exams. Unlike first-time applicants, you are not required to take driving lessons. However, attending a driving school before taking the test is highly recommended, as Germany has many specific traffic rules and road signs.

Our Tip:

In some driving schools, lessons are offered in languages different from German. At *Baumann Fahrschule*, for example, they offer driving lessons in Arabic.



When all costs are added together, obtaining a driving licence can cost between €2,600 and €3,500. In Lindau, driving lessons are available in several languages.

Checklist:

Documents for transferring your licence

1. Valid **identity document** (passport or national ID card)
2. **Proof of residence registration** in Germany (*Meldebescheinigung*)
3. **Original foreign driving licence**
4. Biometric passport **photo**
5. **German translation** of the foreign driving licence (if required)
6. **Appointment confirmation** from the driving licence authority



Useful Websites:

- <https://www.evz.de/en/topics/transport/car/driving-germany/>
- <https://routetogermany.com/drivinginGermany/road-signs-germany>



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Driving Schools and Car Registration

Driving schools in Lindau

ACADEMY Fahrschule Trenkle GmbH Bregenzer Straße 33/ Oberreitnau (slightly outside of Lindau)	Fahrschule Wiener Friedrichshafener Str. 25
Willis Fahrschule Langenweg 41a	Fahrschule Külpmann Enzisweilerstraße 19
Fahrschule Päsler Köchlinstraße 44	Fahrschule Langer Am Hang 3
Baumann Fahrschule Kemptener Straße 17 Hergensweiler (outside of Lindau)	

If you want to register a car in Germany, you must go to the vehicle registration office (*Kfz-Zulassungsstelle*) of the Lindau district, in **Heuriedweg 38, 88131 Lindau**. Beforehand, you need third-party liability insurance for the vehicle, which will give you an eVB number. You can book an appointment online or by phone. Bring the following documents with you:

Checklist:



Documents for car registration

- ID (passport or identity card)
- eVB number from the insurance
- Registration certificate Part II (for used vehicles also Part I)
- Proof of the last general inspection
- Vehicle tax direct debit authorization
- Operating permit; usually in the form of the CoC certificate (certificate of conformity) for a new vehicle
- Desired licence plate: If you want a specific licence plate, there is the option to reserve one in advance. The tax for this is 10.20 euros.

At these driving schools, you can register for a car driving licence (Class B) or other classes and receive theory and practical lessons. You can take the theory exam in English; you must tell the responsible person at the exam that you want to take the exam in English or in another language.

For the practical exam, there is officially no procedure in English, but you can ask the driving school. Many examiners make this possible if it is clarified early. If you want to progress faster, you can book an intensive course in which you take several lessons per week, often even daily. This way, you can obtain your driving licence in a few weeks, while normal courses usually take 3–6 months.

Contact:

Kfz-Zulassungsstelle

(vehicle registration office):

Heuriedweg 38

Email: zulassungsstelle@landkreis-lindau.de

Telephone: 08382 270-900



© Christopher Roberts, Kfz-Zulassungsstelle

Car Sharing and Bikes

Car sharing in Lindau

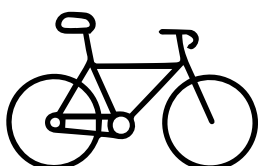
In Lindau, car sharing offers a cost-effective, flexible, and eco-friendly alternative to car ownership, helping reduce parking demand and improving the public living environment. Two car-sharing providers are available in the city: *deer* and *Bodenseemobil*, giving residents and visitors convenient access to shared vehicles without the need to own a car.

Deer https://www.deer-mobility.de/	
Bodenseemobil https://bodenseemobil.de/	

Bikes in Lindau

If you want to rent a bicycle, there are several options in Lindau:

Ronny's Bikeshop Bahnhofplatz 1d
RadInsel Lindau Dammsteggasse 4
Fahrrad Unger Inselgraben 14
Bicycle rental Bananabuddy Bahnhofplatz 1c,
Uli's bicycle rental Lindau Herbergsweg 11



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For repairs or service of bicycles and e-bikes, you can visit these workshops:

Radstation Lindau Kemptener Str. 16
der bikeDoc Bregenzer Str. 35
Radgeber GmbH Wackerstraße 11
Radsport Jausovec Schulstraße 28
Fahrradies Schönauer Str.102

E-Scooters, E-Bikes, and E-Cargo Bikes

For short trips and last-mile mobility, Lindau features a modern range of electric options. The company *dott* provides a station-based sharing service for e-scooters and e-bikes, which can be rented easily via their app. Additionally, *sigo GmbH* operates six stations with 10 electric cargo bikes, ideal for transporting heavier loads sustainably and efficiently around town.

dott https://ridedott.com/de/fahr-mit-uns/	
sigo GmbH https://sigo.green/standorte	

Shopping in Lindau

Lindau offers a variety of shopping options to make your daily life comfortable and convenient. Shops here generally open Monday to Saturday with most closing on Sundays except for a few bakeries and convenience stores. You will find a wide selection of supermarkets for your groceries, stores specializing in organic products, and international markets offering Asian, Mediterranean, and other global foods.



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Infobox:

Opening Times: Monday - Saturday

- **Supermarkets & Discounters:**
7:00 am – 8:00 pm
- **Bakeries:** 6:00 / 6:30 am – 6:00 pm
- **Shopping Center – Lindaupark:**
8:30 am – 8:00 pm
- **Other Shops:** Usually 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Note: Opening times may vary slightly by location and public holidays.

Supermarkets and grocery stores in Lindau

Discounters: Aldi, Lidl, Netto, Penny

Supermarkets: REWE, EDEKA, Kaufland, Feneberg

Organic and Speciality: Denn's Biomarkt, Alnatura, Naturell Naturkost

International and specialty grocery stores:

Asia Shop Lotus
Rickenbacher Str. 12

Asian grocery with a selection of East/Southeast Asian products.

Ha Phat Asia Markt
Bregenzer Str. 150

Asian food market with sauces, noodles, spices, etc.

Tiba Markt
Friedrichshafener Str. 81-83

Middle Eastern/ Mediterranean products

Raif Export
Von-Behring-Str. 7

Grocery store with Turkish food items



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Our Tip:

After work shopping: On the first Thursday of each month, shops on Lindau Island stay open until 8:00 pm for a special shopping event. With changing party locations, visitors can enjoy live music and drinks until 11:00 pm, offering an enjoyable way to end the evening.



Shopping centre: *Lindapark*

Lindapark is a modern shopping centre in Lindau, offering a convenient mix of retail stores, services, and dining options under one roof. Located near the city's residential areas, it serves as a popular everyday shopping destination for locals and visitors alike. With supermarkets, fashion shops, and essential services, *Lindapark* combines practicality with a comfortable, easy-to-navigate atmosphere.



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Local Markets

Every **Saturday Market** at *Therese-von-Bayern-Platz*: from 7:00 am to 1:30 pm: It's a large and lively market offering regional products such as fresh fruit and vegetables, eggs, cheese, meat, and freshly caught fish from Lake Constance. You will also find flowers, plants, and handmade items perfect for gifts or decoration.

From early April to late September, also at *Therese-von-Bayern-Platz* there is an **evening market on Wednesdays**. It runs from 5:00 pm to 9:30 pm and is especially popular with locals for relaxed midweek shopping. Enjoy local food and relax with a glass of wine as you watch the sunset by the lake.

Weekly Market in Lindau-Aeschach: Every Tuesday from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm at the "Auf der Lärche" parking area. A smaller, cozy market offering regional specialties and a friendly, personal atmosphere.



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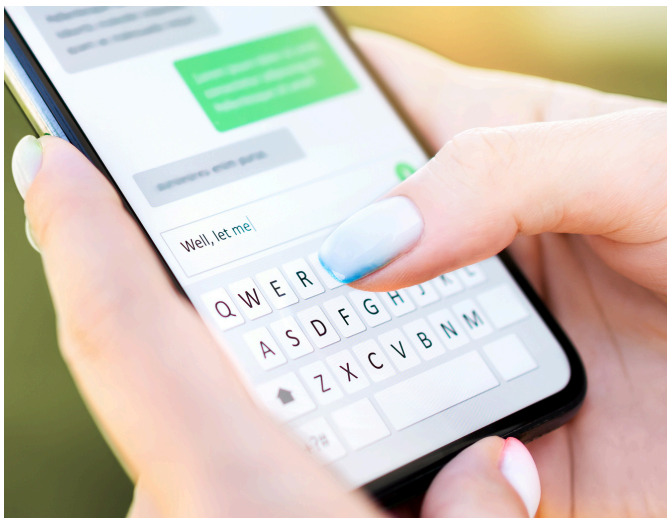
Budget-Friendly Stores:

- **BRK Kleiderladen** (www.kvlindau.brk.de)
- **Lindauer Tafel/Caritas-Laden** (www.caritas-lindau.de)
- **Nachbarschaftshilfe Lindau** (www.nachbarschaftshilfe-lindau.de)
- **Unternehmen Chance, Kaufhaus Lindau** (<https://www.unternehmen-chance.de/>)

Mobile Phones and Internet

How to get a SIM card

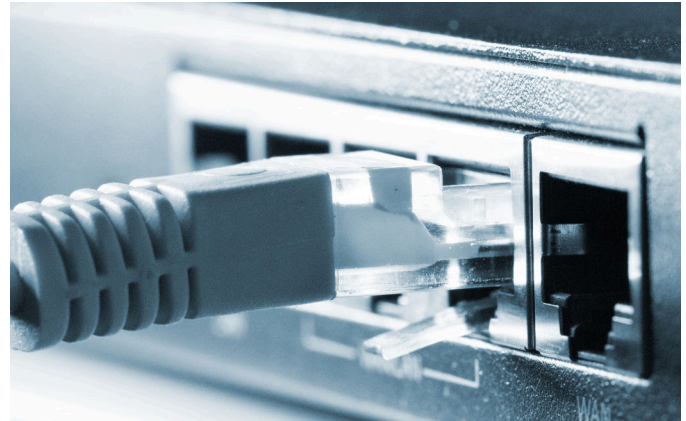
Getting a SIM card in Germany is usually simple and the first step to staying connected. You can buy SIM cards at supermarkets (like Aldi or Lidl), electronics stores such as MediaMarkt or Saturn, provider shops, or online. In Germany, **SIM card registration is mandatory**, meaning you must verify your identity after purchase. For this, you need a valid passport or ID card, residence permit (*Aufenthaltstitel*) and sometimes proof of your German address. Verification can be done online via video identification, at a post office, or directly in the shop.



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Available providers

Providers like Telekom, Vodafone, and O2, as well as more affordable options like Aldi Talk, Lidl Connect, Congstar, and 1&1, offer both **prepaid plans**, where you pay in advance and top up as needed, and **contract plans**, which usually last 12 or 24 months. Prepaid plans typically cost between €5–€15 per month, while contract plans range from €10–€40 per month. Contracts usually require a German bank account (IBAN), and long-term contracts may require proof of address, such as a *Meldebescheinigung* (city registration certificate). You can set up these plans online, in electronics stores, or at provider shops. Network coverage and speeds vary between providers.



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Home internet options and providers

For home internet, options include DSL, cable, and increasingly fiber-optic connections. Setting up internet service usually requires signing a contract with a provider and can take a few weeks for installation. You may need a router (WLAN box), which is sometimes included or rented, and a technician may be required for certain connections. Providers such as Telekom, Vodafone, 1&1, and O2 often offer combined packages for internet, mobile phone, and TV, which can be arranged online or in-store. Home internet plans typically range from €25–€50 per month, depending on speed and provider.

Before choosing a provider, it is recommended to check network coverage at your address and compare plans online, as availability, speeds, and prices can vary depending on location. Additionally, remember that most contracts automatically renew after the initial period, so you must cancel in advance (usually one month before renewal) if you do not want to continue.



Useful Website:

- <https://www.mygermanphone.de>
- <https://www.dslweb.de> (to check internet availability in your area)

Postal Services

Postal services in Lindau are mainly provided by *Deutsche Post*, which is responsible for sending letters and many parcels within Germany and abroad. In addition, private delivery companies such as DHL, Hermes, GLS, and DPD are commonly used, especially for online shopping. Post offices, parcel shops, and parcel stations can be found throughout the city and are used for everyday services like sending letters, receiving packages, or returning online orders.



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Deutsche Post & Paket Filiale, Rickenbacher Str. 12
Deutsche Post & Paket Filiale, Salzgasse 4
Deutsche Post Filiale at Kaufland, Heuriedweg 21
Deutsche Post Filiale at Tiba-Markt, Friedrichshafener Str. 81-83
Deutsche Post Filiale, Bregenzer Str. 148
Deutsche Post Filiale im Lindaupark, Kemptener Str. 1

Infobox:

- It is important that your **name is clearly written on your mailbox** and doorbell, otherwise letters and parcels may not be delivered.
- When **writing an address** in Germany, the usual format is: name, street and house number, postal code and city, and Germany.
- Letters can be posted in the **yellow mailboxes** located throughout the town.
- Stamps can be purchased at post offices, parcel shops, or online.
- Parcels are commonly delivered by companies such as DHL, Hermes, GLS Group, and DPD group. If you are not at home during delivery, parcels are often left with a neighbour or taken to a nearby parcel shop for collection.
- Residents can also use **automated parcel lockers** such as the the DHL *Packstation* to send or collect parcels at any time.
- Most deliveries include a **tracking number**, which can be used online or through apps such as the DHL *Paket* app to follow the shipment.

Useful Website:

- <https://www.deutschepost.de>



Language and Integration

Moving to a new country is both exciting and challenging. In Lindau, you will find many opportunities to learn German, build connections, and become part of the community. This section provides essential information about language courses, and integration support to help you settle in smoothly and feel at home in your new environment.

Our Tip:

In all the interviews we conducted with international professionals in Lindau, the German language was mentioned as **the** key factor for living and working in Germany. We therefore advise you to make it a priority.



Infobox:

Courses in Lindau

- Language Courses A1-B2
- Integrations Courses consisting of a Language Course (A1-B1) and an Orientation Course

Costs: Many German courses are publicly funded. Integration courses (A1-B1 plus orientation course) are subsidised by BAMF; self-payers usually pay €2.29 per lesson, with possible exemptions or partial reimbursement. Other language courses (A1-B2) offered by private providers are not always funded and can cost significantly more, depending on the school and course format.

Learning German

Integration courses consist of a language course and an orientation course.

- The language course comprises six modules, with each module lasting 100 teaching hours. One teaching hour lasts 45 minutes. This course takes you from level A1 to level B1.
- The orientation course aims to familiarise you with the German legal system, history, culture and fundamental values and lasts 1 module. There are 7 modules in total, which means 700 teaching hours.
- After module 6, you must take a language test, the '*Deutschtest für Zuwanderer*' (German test for immigrants). After module 7, you will take a test on German culture, history and politics – the '*Leben in Deutschland*' (Living in Germany) test.
- Both tests together result in the Integration Course Certificate. The Integration Course Certificate is a prerequisite for a settlement permit or naturalisation (*Einbürgerung*).



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Language Schools

There are several language school providers that offer language courses in Lindau.

Schools	Courses
Volkshochschule Uferweg 7 vhs@lindau.de +49 8382 27748-0 https://www.vhs-lindau.de/ 	Integration courses (BAMF-funded), general German courses A1–B2, <i>Sprachcafé</i>, naturalisation courses and naturalisation test, company courses, workshops, city tours; telc exam centre on site.
bfz gGmbH Uferweg 7 info-ubo@bfz.de +49 8382 9651-33 https://www.bfz.de/unterallgaeu-bodensee-oberschwaben 	Adult education and vocational preparation; language support and integration-related programmes (exact German courses vary by schedule; contact for details) .
Kolping-Akademie Langenweg 24 / Kolpingstraße 88131 Lindau +49 8382 9336-0 www.die-kolping-akademie.de/ueber-uns/standorte/lindau 	German language support as part of adult education and integration-oriented measures (courses depend on programme schedule – contact for details).
Our Tip: • The Integration Course Coordinator of the District of Lindau, Christine Schmidt, can help you find a suitable German language course. She can also provide information about financial support, including cost reimbursement. +49 8382 270645 christine.schmidt@landkreis-lindau.de • The BAMF-NAvi (https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/en/) gives you an overview of integration courses in Lindau. Just enter the postal code 88131.  	

© Jasmin Heinemann, bfz and vhs, Uferweg 7

Additional Programmes

Many language school providers in Lindau offer more than standard German lessons. They also run additional programmes that support integration and help newcomers feel welcome, offering guidance on everyday life in Germany and opportunities to connect with others and settle into life in Lindau.

Sprachcafe (Volkshochschule)

The language café is a meeting place where you can practice German in a relaxed atmosphere and make new contacts. It takes place every Tuesday from 15:00 to 16:30 at the vhs building (Uferweg 7, Seminarraum 3) and is open to everyone — you do not need to register in advance, just turn up. The sessions are usually held outside school holidays and offer a friendly space to meet others and improve everyday language skills. For the most up-to-date schedule and details, see the vhs Lindau course page:

Useful Website:

- <https://www.vhs-lindau.de/kurssuche>

Vocational Language Courses

vhs, bfz and Kolping Akademie also offer vocational language courses. In these courses you will expand your vocabulary and learn technical terms. This will enable you to communicate confidently in your job, both verbally and in writing. Language courses are offered from A2 to C1. At the end, you will take the telc certificate exam, which is recognized on the job market. You will also receive information about job hunting, job interviews, and employment contracts. For more information see:



Useful Website:

- www.bamf.de/berufssprachkurse



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Initiatives that Promote Cultural Exchange

The **Stadtfest Lindau** is a lively annual city festival celebrated across multiple public squares on the island of Lindau, where people come together for music, food, and community fun from midday until late at night. It has been organised by the local **Club Vaudeville Lindau e.V.** since the early 1980s and features diverse musical acts, performances, and activities that appeal to residents and visitors alike. The event promotes a sense of togetherness and showcases the vibrant cultural life of the town. <https://stadtfest-lindau.de/>

The **Mehrgenerationenhaus Treffpunkt Zech** in Lindau is a lively community centre that welcomes people of all ages and backgrounds. Its diverse programme includes activities such as an international women's breakfast, childcare, basic German literacy courses, advice on applications and related matters, and digital consultation hours. These offerings foster social interaction, cultural exchange, and provide valuable support to residents, helping them integrate and connect across generations in a friendly, inclusive environment. <https://www.treffpunkt-zech.online/>

friedens räume in Lindau is more than a museum—it's an intercultural and interfaith forum for exchange and encounter, inviting visitors to reflect on peace and conflict in ways that engage the senses and spark conversation. Through interactive rooms and a varied event programme, including public guided tours and workshops, **friedens räume** offers opportunities for dialogue, shared learning, and cultural encounter that go beyond traditional exhibition experiences. The space aims to give peace room to be *experienced, discussed, and lived*, encouraging visitors from different backgrounds to connect and exchange ideas. <http://www.friedens-raeume.de>

If you are looking to connect with people from diverse backgrounds and experience vibrant cultural events, **Club Vaudeville Lindau** offers just that. Beyond organising the well-known **Stadtfest**, they host concerts, theatre performances, workshops, and community gatherings that bring locals and newcomers together. These events provide you with great opportunities to meet others, enjoy artistic exchange, and deepen your understanding of different cultures. By supporting both local and international artists, Club Vaudeville helps create an inclusive and lively cultural scene in Lindau. <https://www.vaudeville.de/>

Work and Professional Life

Working in Germany may differ from what you are used to, with its own structures, expectations, and regulations. This chapter provides an overview of German working life and explains important rules and laws related to employment, such as contracts, working hours, and employee rights and obligations. It is designed to help you better understand the professional environment and navigate your workplace with confidence. For further information or individual advice, you can also contact the *Fachstelle Faire Integration*, which offers support on fair working conditions and labour rights.



Useful Website:

- <https://www.faire-integration.de/en/>

Infobox:

Important workplace terms:

- **Gleitzeit** – Flexible working hours: you choose when to start/end work within agreed limits, common in office-based roles
- **Teilzeit** – Part-time employment: working fewer hours than a standard full-time job.
- **Vollzeit** – Full-time employment: usually 35–40 hours per week.
- **Schichtarbeit** – Shift work: early/late/night shifts according to a duty roster.
- **Überstunden** – Overtime: hours worked beyond your contract.
- **Homeoffice / Mobiles Arbeiten** – Working from home or another location outside the office.
- **Einstempeln / Ausstempeln** – Clocking in and out at work to document working hours.
- **Arbeitszeitkonto – Time account** recording plus/minus hours worked (often used with *Gleitzeit*).

Good to Know:

Also with a temporary residence permit (asylum seekers), access to work in Germany is possible, but not immediately. During the first three months after applying for asylum, employment is not allowed. However, you may already look for a job, prepare applications, and attend interviews during this time.



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Infobox:

Qualified vs. unqualified work:

Qualified work in Germany, which requires at least two years of formal training, is usually better paid, involves specialised skills and greater responsibility, and can improve prospects for staying in the country, whereas unqualified work can be done without formal training and relies on general abilities learned quickly.



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Your Rights and Obligations

Work contract (*Arbeitsvertrag*)

A work contract is a legally binding agreement between you and your employer that outlines the terms and conditions of your employment. It includes important details such as your job description, working hours, salary, probation period, notice periods, and any special agreements like overtime or bonuses. Before signing, it's important to read the contract carefully and ask questions if anything is unclear. The work contract protects both you and your employer and ensures that your rights and obligations are clear from the start.

Income and taxes

In Germany, income is generally subject to taxes and social security contributions, which are usually deducted directly from your salary by your employer before you receive your pay. Your gross salary (*Brutto*) is the total amount you earn before any deductions. From this gross amount, income tax and social security contributions are withheld, including payments for health insurance, pension insurance, unemployment insurance, and long-term care insurance.

After these deductions, you receive your net salary (*Netto*), which is the amount that is actually paid into your bank account. The exact deductions depend on factors such as your income level, tax class, and personal situation. At the end of the year, it may be possible or necessary to submit a tax return to correct the final tax calculation or reclaim overpaid taxes. Understanding the difference between *Brutto* and *Netto*, and how income and taxes are handled, helps you better read your payslip and plan your finances.

German income tax return

While some people have to hand in a *Steuererklärung*, it is not mandatory for everyone. However, it is often worth submitting one because you may have paid too much tax and could be entitled to a refund. Whether a tax return is compulsory depends on your personal situation, for example, if you have multiple incomes, received wage replacement benefits, or were taxed in certain tax classes.

The *Steuererklärung* can be filed online via ELSTER, the official platform of the German tax authorities. Those who prefer personal assistance can use a *Lohnsteuerhilfeverein* (*Lohnsteuerhilfe Lindau*), which supports employees and pensioners for an annual membership fee. Alternatively, tax software (such as WISO Steuer, Taxfix, or Smartsteuer) or tax advisers (*Steuerberater*) can help, especially in more complex situations.

Our Tip:

File a *Steuererklärung* even if you're not required to do so. Many employees are likely to receive a tax refund.



Useful Websites:

- <https://www.elster.de/>
- <https://www.altbayerischer.de/lohnsteuerhilfe>
- <https://www.finanzamt-lindau.de/>

Social insurance obligations

- Health Insurance (*Krankenversicherung*)
- Pension Insurance (*Rentenversicherung*)
- Unemployment Insurance (*Arbeitslosenversicherung*)
- Nursing Care Insurance (*Pflegeversicherung*)

These contributions are automatically deducted from salary.



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Workplace Culture

Punctuality

In Germany, punctuality is very important. Arriving exactly on time for work, meetings, or appointments shows respect and professionalism. Being late is often seen as disrespectful or unorganised.

Communication style Germans tend to communicate in a direct and clear way. They value honesty and precision, so feedback - positive or negative - is usually straightforward and to the point. Do not take it personally; it's about efficiency.



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Meeting culture

Meetings are typically well-structured and time-efficient. There is usually an agenda, and participants are expected to come prepared and stay focused. Interruptions are uncommon, and sticking to the topic is important.

Politeness and formality (*Siezen* vs. *Duzen*)

Using the correct form of address is important. You will usually “*Siezen*” (use the formal “you”) with colleagues, especially superiors and people you don’t know well. “*Duzen*” (informal “you”) is reserved for close colleagues or when explicitly offered.

“*People in Germany are very direct, and punctuality is very important.*”

(Naing Tun Aung, training to become a nurse, in Lindau since 2025, originally from Myanmar)



Email etiquette

Emails in Germany tend to be formal and polite, especially when communicating with new contacts or superiors. It’s common to start with a greeting and end with a formal closing. Clear, concise writing is appreciated.



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Professional Training Institutions in Lindau

“Give yourself time and do not underestimate your own value.”

(Halyna Yanyshivska, project manager, marketer, job coach, in Lindau since 2022, originally from Ukraine)

In Lindau, there are several institutions dedicated to professional training and continuing education, each offering valuable programmes to support both personal and professional development. These institutions provide a wide range of courses, workshops, and certification programmes designed to meet the needs of individuals at different stages of their careers. Whether someone is looking to gain new qualifications, improve existing skills, or explore a new professional path, learners can find suitable opportunities within the city.



©Jasmin Heinemann, IHK Uferweg 9

bfz – Berufliches Fortbildungszentrum der bayer. Wirtschaft Uferweg 7 08382 9651-33 info-ubo@bfz.de https://www.bfz.de/bildungsangebote 	Offers vocational training, retraining programs, career coaching, and tailored qualification courses for job seekers, employees, and companies.
BRK – medizinische Aus- und Fortbildung Rotkreuzplatz 1 08382 2770 - 0 info.li@brk.de https://www.kvlindau.brk.de/leichte-sprache/kurse.html	Offers training in first aid, including courses for rescue personnel and social care professionals.
IHK Akademie Schwaben Uferweg 9 08382 938377 rv-lin@schwaben.ihk.de https://www.ihk-akademie-schwaben.de 	Provides business-oriented continuing education, including certified IHK courses, seminars in management, logistics, marketing, and finance, as well as preparation for professional examinations.

Volkshochschule Lindau Uferweg 7 08382 27748-0 vhs@lindau.de https://www.vhs-lindau.de/ 	Offers a wide range of adult education courses including professional development, language classes, IT training, and soft skills.
Die Kolping Akademie Langenweg 24 08382 93360 info@kolping-lindau.de https://www.die-kolping-akademie.de/ueber-uns/standorte/lindau/ 	The Kolping Academy offers language and integration courses, vocational training, and coaching services to support professional development and labour market integration.
Agentur für Arbeit Lindau Hundweilerstraße 1 08382 9303-0 Lindau@arbeitsagentur.de https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/vor-ort/kempten-memmingen/lindau 	The <i>Agentur für Arbeit</i> supports international professionals by helping them enter the German labour market. It offers job placement services, career counselling, and detailed labour market information. Professionals can receive guidance on how to match their skills to suitable job opportunities, find training options, and learn more about qualification recognition.
Psychotherapeutisches Weiterbildungszentrum für systemisch- integrative Konzepte (Cormanninstitute) Uli-Wieland-Str. 10 88142 Wasserburg am Bodensee 08382-3917 ptz@cormanninstitute.de https://ptz.cormanninstitute.de/	Specialises in soft-skill development and leadership training, offering programmes in communication, team dynamics, conflict management, and personal development.



©Christopher Roberts, Agentur für Arbeit Hundweilerstraße 1



©Jasmin Heinemann, computer room bfz

Career guidance

Several organisations offer free career guidance in Lindau. The bfz (*Berufliche Fortbildungszentren der Bayerischen Wirtschaft*), for example, provides individual coaching and support to help people explore career options, clarify goals, and plan their professional future. Additionally, it provides support with writing applications and creating professional CVs, offering practical help tailored to individual goals. The *Agentur für Arbeit* (Employment Agency) in Lindau also offers professional career counselling, aptitude assessments, and vocational orientation services, including personalised appointments to discuss training and job opportunities. *Kolping Akademie* also offers placement coaching to support participants in entering the labour market. Access to these services is often provided via the Employment Agency or the Job Centre.



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LOUIS – Dein Weiterbilder (bfz)

LOUIS is an innovative online learning platform offered by bfz that helps you develop your career and continue your education. Through LOUIS, you can access a wide range of flexible courses—both online and blended—that support improving your language skills, vocational qualifications, and job readiness. The platform provides personalised guidance and support throughout your learning journey, helping you choose the right courses and stay motivated. You can easily access LOUIS from anywhere, allowing you to learn at your own pace while balancing work and daily life. For more information and to register, visit www.online-weiterbilden.com.

Practical Training Room (bfz)

The bfz in Lindau offers a practical training room equipped for hands-on learning, where participants can practice skills relevant to various professions. This space provides a safe and supportive environment to explore and develop vocational skills, helping learners decide whether a particular profession is the right fit for their future career.

IT Courses (*Kolping Akademie*)

Kolping Akademie offers IT courses that focus on building basic digital skills for everyday work and professional use. The courses are designed to improve participants' confidence in using computers and common software applications. The duration of the course is approximately three months. Access is provided via the Employment Agency or the Job Centre.



© Christopher Roberts, Kolping Akademie



Useful Websites:

- Federal Employment Agency: <https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/en/home>
- IQ support programme: www.netzwerk-iq.de
- DGB Bildungswerk: www.dgb-bildungswerk.de



©Jasmin Heinemann, practical training room bfz

Family and Education

When you move to Lindau with your family, there are important aspects to consider to help your transition go smoothly. This chapter provides an overview of the **local kindergarten and school systems**, introduces **support services** available for families, and highlights opportunities for **children's free time activities**. Knowing about these will help you and your family settle in comfortably and thrive in your new environment.

Kindergarten and Childcare

Lindau offers a variety of childcare centres run by the city, churches, and independent providers. Differences between kindergartens relate mainly to the type of provider (municipal, church, nonprofit, or private), the pedagogical concept, and the opening hours, giving families a wide range of educational options. Although some kindergartens are run by religious organisations, they are open to children of all denominations and beliefs, and admission is not limited to families belonging to the respective church.

Registration

To apply for a childcare place in Lindau, parents need to register on the Little Bird platform: <https://portal.little-bird.de/Nutzer/Anmelden>.

Through the portal, they can submit up to three placement requests directly to their preferred childcare facilities. Placement allocation is also managed digitally via the portal. You can register for the next childcare year (starting 1 September) at any time throughout the year via the portal.



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Language and integration at kindergarten

In Bavaria, the Vorkurs Deutsch 240 is a structured early language support programme for preschool children who need extra help with German before starting school. It provides 240 hours of targeted German language development over about one and a half years, beginning in the second-to-last year before school in cooperation between kindergartens and local primary schools. If you urgently require a childcare place outside the regular registration period, you should contact the *Landratsamt Lindau* for support and further guidance.



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Fees

Monthly fees vary depending on the provider and the number of booked hours. Kindergartens charge around 150€ - 250€ for part-day care (4-5 hours per day), while costs for longer hours/full-day care may range from 190€ - 275€ plus additional costs for meals.

Financial support

Bavaria provides financial support for families: children aged 3 to 6 receive a state subsidy of €100 per month, which is automatically deducted from the childcare fees.



Our Tip:

If you need a childcare place urgently contact the **Stadt Lindau (Department for Children, Youth and Sport)**. They can support and advise you individually.



Protestant Kindergartens

Ev. Kindertagesstätte Christuskirche Aeschach

Kirchgasse 21a

kita.christuskirche.lindau@elkb.de**Kinderhaus St. Stephan Insel**

In der Grub 10

info@diakonie-lindau.de**Ev. Kindertagesstätte St. Verena Reutin**

Steigstraße 34

kita.st.verena.lindau@elkb.de**Kita Alpenblick**

Dr.-Otto-Davidson-Straße 1

kita.alpenblick@diakonie-allgaeu.de

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Catholic Kindergartens

Kindergarten Bethlehem Reutin

Kemptner Straße 33

kita.bethlehem.lindau-reutin@bistum-augsburg.de**Maria-Ward-Kindergarten Insel**

Sina-Kinkelin-Platz 1

kiga.maria-ward.lindau@bistum-augsburg.de**Kindergarten St. Johannes der Täufer**

Schachen/Bodolz

Kirchstraße 13 Bodolz

kita.st.johannes.bodolz@bistum-augsburg.de**Kindergarten St. Ludwig Aeschach**

Bühlweg 4

kontakt@kinderhaus-st-ludwig.de**Kindergarten St. Maria Zech**

Zechwaldstraße 32

kita.st.maria.lindau-zech@bistum-augsburg.de**Kindergarten „Zur Heiligen Familie“ Oberreitnau**

Hepachstraße 15

kita.oberreitnau@bistum-augsburg.dePublic Kindergartens (*Stadt Lindau*)**Kindergarten Am Hoyerberg**

Hoyerbergstraße 31

kita.hoyerberg@lindau.de**Kinderhaus “Schatzkiste” (City Kita)**

Grenzsiedlung 9

kinderhaus.schatzkiste@lindau.de

Welfare and Independent Providers

Johanniter Kinderhaus “Seezwerge”

Enzisweilerstraße 9

kita.lindau.seezwerge@johanniter.de**Johanniter Kinderhaus “Ideenreich”**

Kemptener Straße 99

kita.lindau.ideenreich@johanniter.de**Kindertagesstätte “Kleine Sonnenstrahlen”**

Brougierstraße 25

kiga.kleine.sonnenstrahlen@googlemail.com**TANNER Kinderhaus (Crèche & Kindergarten)**

Von-Behring-Straße 8a

kinderhaus@tanner.de**Familienzentrum minimaxi**

Köchlinstraße 46a

info@minimaxi-lindau.de**Kita AWO Villa Kunterbunt**

Heyderstr. 8

kita.lindau@awo-schwaben.de

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Nature/Special-Concept Kindergartens

Forest & Lake Kindergarten Lindau (*Wald- und Seekindergarten*)

Kemptener Straße 144

wkg.lindau@hb-learning.de

Schools in Lindau

Schooling in Germany is compulsory and begins at age six, usually starting in September. Students must attend school until they turn 18, but many begin vocational training (*Ausbildung*) from age 16 after completing the required years of school.

The German school system

Germany's school system is structured and tracked. All children attend *Grundschule* (primary school) from grades 1 to 4. After that, they move into different secondary school types based on performance and recommendations: *Mittelschule* with a practical focus, *Realschule* with a mix of academic and practical subjects, and *Gymnasium* for an academic path leading to the *Abitur*.

There are also various private schools, such as church-run (e.g. *Maria-Ward Realschule* in Lindau), Montessori (e.g. *Freie Schule Lindau*), or *Waldorf* schools, which follow the official curriculum while using their own educational approaches. State schools are free, while private schools usually charge tuition.

After completing year 10, students can choose from several further educational paths. The *Fachoberschule* (FOS) offers a combination of academic coursework and practical training and can lead to the *Fachhochschulreife* or a specialised form of the *Abitur*. The *Berufsschule* is part of the dual vocational training system, where students complete an apprenticeship in a company while attending school part-time. Another option is the *Berufsfachschule*, which provides full-time vocational training in areas such as healthcare, social care, or technical professions.



Infobox:

The German school system is flexible and allows pupils to transfer between different types of schools depending on their performance. This system helps students find the best educational path suited to their abilities and supports diverse learning opportunities.

Registration

You are free to choose a school for your child, but primary schools are generally assigned based on the school catchment area (*Sprengel*), meaning children are usually required to attend the primary school responsible for their place of residence.

To register your child in a school in Lindau, you will typically need to provide documents such as your child's birth certificate, passport, proof of residence, vaccination records, and previous school reports. Start by contacting the school's admissions office to learn about application deadlines, required paperwork, and available language support programmes like German as a Second Language (DaZ). Submit the application along with all necessary documents, and be prepared for a possible interview, entrance test, or sometimes a trial period to determine if the school is a good fit for your child. Once accepted, you will receive a confirmation and may need to attend an orientation session.



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Language support programmes

In Bavaria there are a variety of language support programmes such as *Vorkurs Deutsch 240* before school entry, *Deutschklassen* for pupils with little or no German, *DeutschPLUS-Differenzierung* and *DeutschPLUS-Kurse* alongside regular lessons, as well as *Deutsch als Zweitsprache (DaZ)* within the curriculum. These measures are part of the Bavarian school system and are used by schools as needed to support pupils in acquiring both everyday and academic German, with the specific format and intensity depending on the individual learning needs of the children.

There are a variety of schools in Lindau, offering different educational paths for children. To choose the right school for your child, it is advisable to attend open days, which are often held at the beginning of the year. These events provide a great opportunity to explore the options available and get to know the schools better.

Grundschulen und Mittelschulen
Freie Schule Lindau Uferweg 5 office@freieschulelindau.de
Grundschule Lindau-Aeschach Langenweg 48 gs-aeschach@lindau.de
Grundschule Lindau-Hoyren Hoyerbergstraße 33 gs-hoyren@lindau.de
Grundschule Insel Barfüßerplatz 3-5 gs-insel@lindau.de
Grundschule Oberreitnau Hepachstraße 9 gs-oberreitnau@lindau.de
Grundschule Reutin Schulstraße 23 gs-reutin-zech@lindau.de Außenstelle Zech Leiblachstraße 8 gs-reutin-zech@lindau.de
Mittelschule (Aeschach Site) Anheggerstraße 18 ae-sekr@mittelschule-lindau.de
Mittelschule (Reutin Site) Schulstraße 23 sekretariat@mittelschule-lindau.de



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Förderschulen/Sonderschulen

Antonio-Huber-Schule
 Sonderpädagogisches Förderzentrum
 Antoniusplatz 7
 88161 Lindenberg
verwaltung@sfz-ahs.de



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Realschulen

Maria-Ward-Realschule Lindau
 Ludwigstraße 3
sekretariat@mwrs-lindau.de

Staatliche Realschule
 Reutiner Straße 2
sekretariat@rs-lindau.de

Gymnasien

Bodensee-Gymnasium Lindau
 Reutiner Straße 14
mail@bodensee-gymnasium.de

Valentin-Heider-Gymnasium Lindau
 Ludwick-Kick-Straße 19
sekretariat@valentin-heider-gymnasium.de



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Fachoberschule

Staatliche Fach- und Berufsoberschule
Achstraße 13
fosbos@bsz-lindau.de

Other

Kolping-Bildungswerk
Langenweg 24
info@die-kolping-akademie.de

Berufsbildende Schulen und Einrichtungen

Fachakademie für Sozialpädagogik - Berufsfachschule für Kinderpflege – Lindau
Europaplatz 1
info@faks-lindau

Bfz
Berufliches Fortbildungszentrum der bayer. Wirtschaft
Uferweg 7
mandy.kreutzmann@bfz.de

IHK-Bildungshaus Schwaben
Uferweg 9
juergen.hero@schwaben.ihk.de

Paracelsus – Die Heilpraktikerschulen
Zeppelinstraße 2
lindau@paracelsus.de

Psychotherapeutisches Weiterbildungszentrum für systemischintegrative Konzepte
(Geschäftsstelle der Cormann-institute in Wasserburg)
Seminarräume der Cormanninstitute in Lindau
Uli-Wieland-Straße 10
ptz@cormanninstitute.de

Staatliches Berufliches Schulzentrum Lindau
Reutiner Straße 10
info@bsz-lindau.de

International option nearby

SIS Swiss International School Friedrichshafen
Fallenbrunnen 1, 88045 Friedrichshafen
info@swissinternationalschool.de



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Useful Websites:

- **Kultusministerium:**
<https://www.km.bayern.de/sprachen/englisch>
- **Stadt Lindau:**
<https://www.stadtlindau.de/B%C3%BCrger-Politik-Verwaltung/Schulen-Kindertageseinrichtungen/>

Child Benefit in Germany

Kindergeld

If you have children, you may be eligible for *Kindergeld*, a monthly financial allowance to help with child-related expenses. To apply, you need to contact the *Familienkasse*, the family benefits office. For Lindau and the surrounding area, applications can be submitted online or in person through the *Familienkasse Bayern Süd*. You can find application forms and detailed information on the official website of the Federal Employment Agency (*Bundesagentur für Arbeit*). Applying as soon as possible after arriving in Germany is recommended.

Supplementary Child Allowance (*Kinderzuschlag*)

Families with low to moderate incomes may be eligible for the *Kinderzuschlag*, a supplementary child allowance designed to help cover a child's basic needs and to prevent reliance on social benefits. It is paid in addition to *Kindergeld* and depends on factors such as household income, housing costs, and family size. Applications are handled by the *Familienkasse Bayern Süd* and can be submitted online through the Federal Employment Agency (*Bundesagentur für Arbeit*).



Useful Website:

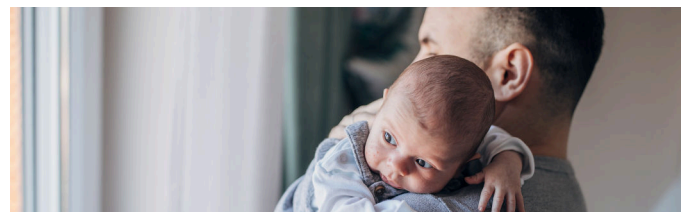
- ***Bundesagentur für Arbeit:***
www.arbeitsagentur.de



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Parental Allowance (*Elterngeld*)

If you become a parent in Germany, you may be eligible for *Elterngeld*, a financial benefit that compensates for income lost when you take time off work to care for your child. There are two main types: *Basiselterngeld* and *ElterngeldPlus*. *Basiselterngeld* is usually paid for up to 12 months, or up to 14 months in total if both parents participate. However, under current rules, both parents can only receive *Basiselterngeld* at the same time for a maximum of one month within the child's first year; the remaining months must be taken separately. *ElterngeldPlus* is designed for parents who return to part-time work earlier; it pays a lower monthly amount but can be received for a longer period, and it allows more flexibility for overlapping months. Applications are handled by the *Zentrum Bayern Familie und Soziales* (ZBFS), Regional Office Schwaben and can be submitted online or by post via familienportal.bayern.de.



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Family Reunification

If you want to bring your close family members (spouse, children) to Germany, you can apply for a family reunification visa. This application is usually made at the German embassy or consulate in your home country. Some visa types require that you apply for family reunification within 12 months of your own arrival in Germany, so it's important to plan early. For holders of the EU Blue Card, the family reunification rules are more flexible - you can also bring your parents and other close relatives under certain conditions. To apply, you will need documents such as your residence permit, proof of income, health insurance, and proof of adequate living space. For detailed guidance, contact your local *Ausländerbehörde* (Foreigners' Office) in Lindau or check the official website of the Federal Foreign Office.

Family Support Services

In Lindau there are many different places and organisations that offer support for families, parents, and young people. These services range from early childhood support to youth programmes.



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Erste Schritte Family Support Villa Engel Ludwig-Kick-Str. 9 08382 6524 kita.villaengel@lindau.de	Help for parents 0-3 yrs, connections, referrals
Familienzentrum miniMAXI Köchlinstraße 46a https://www.minimaxi-lindau.de/ 08382 3690 info@minimaxi-lindau.de	Parent-child centre providing playgroups, early childhood activities, and parent support
Kreisjugendring Stiftsplatz 6 08382 270460 kjr@landkreis-lindau.de	Youth council offering programmes, support, and activities for children, youth, and families, including recreational and educational opportunities
Jugendmigrationsdienst Robert Bosch Straße 29a 08382 9425050 michael.rapp@cjld.de	The Jugendmigrationsdienst (JMD) in Lindau is a specialized service that supports young people with a migration background, typically between the ages of 12 and 27. It helps them with integration into society, education, and the labour market.
Kinderschutzbund Lindau Beratungsstelle: Kemptener Straße 28 Treffpunkt: Schulstraße 18 08382 3706 ksb-lindau@gmx.de	Offers child protection services and family support programmes, including early childhood and day-care information.
Kolpingfamilie Lindau Bodensee Langenweg 24 Leihgroßeltern https://kolping-lindau.de/Leih-Oma-und-Opa-Service	Community organisation with family-friendly activities; offers services like the <i>Leihgroßeltern</i> (foster grandparents) network.
KJF Erziehungs-, Jugend- und Familienberatung Lindau Ludwig-Kick-Straße 19A 08382 4190 eb.lindau@kjf-kjh.de	Offers counselling and support for families, parents, and children on parenting, education, and family life.
Jugendtreff Fresh Bregenzer Straße 177 jugendzentrumfresh177@gmail.com	Youth centre offering social and creative activities for teenagers.
Jugendzentrum X-tra Unterer Schranenplatz 10 sf@synergie.li	Youth centre that provides a space for young people (approx. ages 12-27) with various programmes, events, and recreational support

Free Time Activities for Kids and Teens

Lindau offers a wide variety of leisure activities for children and teenagers, making it an ideal place to grow up, explore, and have fun. Surrounded by the scenic shores of Lake Constance and a vibrant community atmosphere, young people can enjoy both outdoor adventures and creative indoor programmes. From sports clubs and playgrounds to music schools, youth centres, and cultural workshops, there are opportunities to suit every interest and age group.

Stadtbücherei (Public Library)

Maximilianstraße 52

08382 26802

stadtbuecherei@lindau.de

Lindauer Musikschule (Music School)

Holdereggengasse 23

08382 98160

musikschule@lindau.de

Villa Musica (Music School)

Laubeggengasse 11

08382 2746335

info@villa-musica-lindau.de

Tanzhaus Lindau (Dance School)

08382 9979899

info@tanzhaus-lindau.de

TSV Lindau (Turn- und Sportverein Lindau e.V.)

In der Au 18, 88131 Lindau

08382 2830

info@tsv-lindau.de

Volkshochschule Lindau

Courses in the Youth Programme

Uferweg 7

08382 277 480

vhs@lindau.de

Infobox:

In Lindau, young people have the opportunity to get involved in community-based organisations that combine learning, teamwork and social engagement. The *Bayerisches Rotes Kreuz* runs the *Jugendrotkreuz*, where young people can learn first aid, take part in social projects, and work together in a supportive team environment. Similarly, the *Freiwillige Feuerwehr Lindau* offers a *Jugendfeuerwehr* programme that introduces teenagers to firefighting skills, technical knowledge, and community service while strengthening teamwork and responsibility.

Useful Websites:

- **Jugendrotkreuz:** jrk-kvlindau.de
- **Jugendfeuerwehr:**
<https://lindau.feuerwehren.bayern/wir-uber-uns/jugendfeuerwehr/>



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Community and Leisure

Community and leisure play an important role in life in Lindau. With more than 100 different clubs and associations in areas such as sport, music and volunteering, there are many opportunities to get involved, become part of the community and meet new people. Taking part in local activities is a great way to connect with others, feel at home and support your integration in Lindau. More information can be found at:

Useful Websites:

- www.stadtlindau.de
- www.service-punkt-ehrenamt.de



Cultural Institutions

Stadtmuseum Lindau Cavazzen Marktplatz 6 08382 969420 museum@kultur-lindau.de	Explore local history and art exhibitions in this central museum.
Kunstmuseum Lindau Max-Planck-Straße 11 08382 2777 museum@kultur-lindau.de	The Kunstmuseum Lindau showcases a wide range of modern and contemporary art exhibitions, including works by regional, national, and international artists. It also offers educational programmes and special events.
Kunstforum Lindau Maximilianstraße 14, 88131 Lindau 08382 270405 museum@lindau.de	The Kunstforum Lindau is an independent art association and gallery that focuses on contemporary art exhibitions, supporting local and emerging artists. It hosts regular exhibitions, artist talks, and cultural events.

Stadtbücherei Lindau Maximilianstraße 52 08382 26802 stadtbuecherei@lindau.de	A modern library offering books, media, events, and children's programmes.
Stadttheater Lindau Fischergasse 37, 88131 Lindau 08382 924070 theaterkasse@kultur-lindau.de	Theatre performances, concerts, and cultural events.
Zeughaus Unterer Schrankenplatz 10 08382/918-0 info@zeughaus-lindau.de	A venue for exhibitions, concerts, and cultural gatherings.
Lindauer Marionettenoper Fischergasse 37 08382 924070 theaterkasse@kultur-lindau.de	Classical puppet theatre with performances for all ages.
friedens räume Villa Lindenhof www.friedens-raeume.de 08382 24594 info@friedens-raeume.de	A community space focusing on peace, social justice, and cultural exchange.
Forum am See Inselhalle Lindau, Seeuferstraße 3, 08382 91160 info@forum-am-see.de	Modern event venue hosting conferences, exhibitions, and concerts.
Volkshochschule Lindau Uferweg 7 08382 277 480 vhs@lindau.de	The Volkshochschule offers a diverse range of courses, including art history, creative writing, painting, sewing, photography, and music.

Annual Events

For up-to-date information on events in Lindau, there is a helpful online calendar available at: www.lindau.de/lindau-erleben/veranstaltungen. This calendar provides the latest details on dates, locations, and descriptions of festivals, markets, cultural programmes, and much more. It's a great resource to plan your time and stay connected with what's happening in Lindau throughout the year.

Fasnacht / Carnival (Jan/Feb/Mar) – Traditional carnival celebrations with parades and costumes before Lent. Timing varies each year.



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Lindauer Abendmarkt (Evening Market) – April to September (Wednesdays)

Weekly market on the *Kleine See* with regional food and products — a local summer tradition.

Rund Um – A long-distance sailing night regatta around Lake Constance, typically in June.

Bregenzer Festspiele (in nearby Bregenz) – Major summer opera festival on the lake's floating stage, popular with residents of Lindau.



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Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings - Prestigious international conference where Nobel laureates and young scientists meet for lectures and discussions.

Komm & See (Winegrowers' Festival) – July. A festive wine event where you visit regional wineries and enjoy music, food and local culture.



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Stadtfest (City Festival) – July. One of Lindau's biggest summer gatherings with music, food, and activities across the island.

Kinderfest (Children's Festival) – Late July / August. A long-standing local tradition with games and entertainment for children and families.

Lindauer Oktoberfest – Early September. A Bavarian-style folk festival with beer tents, music, and funfair attractions, usually in early September.

Lindauer Jahrmarkt (Funfair) – Early November. A traditional fair with rides, stands, and food stalls across Lindau's historic island.



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Christmas Market (Hafenweihnacht / Weihnachtsmarkt) – Late November to December. Festive markets and holiday atmosphere around Lindau's old town.

Local Clubs and Associations

Anyone who moves to Lindau can quickly make connections through the **numerous clubs** and pursue their own interests in sports, music, culture, or volunteering. Local clubs provide great advantages for settling into the town, as you meet new people, practise German in everyday life, and become part of the community. Information about clubs, meetings, and events can be found on the City of Lindau website, in the municipal event calendar, in the *Lindauer Zeitung*, and on notices in sports halls, libraries, and community centers.

Sports Clubs

Popular sports clubs include, among others, TSV Lindau offering activities such as football, gymnastics, and athletics, as well as EV Lindau Islanders in the field of ice hockey. Sailing and rowing clubs are also very popular and can be reached via their respective club websites or directly at the harbour facilities.

Music

In the field of music and culture, Lindau has various choirs, music clubs, and orchestras. Information and contacts can be found via the Lindau Music School, as well as through the church communities and the Lindau cultural office, accessible via the city's website.



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TSV Lindau
Köchlinstraße 13
www.tsv-lindau.de

SpVgg Lindau 1919 e.V.
Reutiner Str. 21
www.spvgg-lindau.de

EV Lindau Islanders
Eichwaldstraße 16
www.evlindau.com

Lindauer Seglerclub e.V.
Segelhafen 3
www.lsc.de

Ruderclub Lindau e.V.
Aeschacher Ufer 31
www.ruderclub-lindau.de

Lindauer Kanuclub e.V.
Aeschacher Ufer 35
www.lindauer-kanuclub.de

Musikschule Lindau e.V.
Holdereggengasse 23
www.musikschule-lindau.de

Villa Musica
Laubeggengasse 11
www.villa-musica-lindau.de

Kammerchor Lindau e.V.
Oberreitnauer Straße 59
<http://kammerchorlindau.de>

Lindauer Vokalensemble
Spieglerweg 12B
<http://lindauer-vokalensemble.de/>



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Volunteering

Lindau offers many opportunities for volunteer work. Social, cultural, and ecological projects regularly seek support. A central local contact point is *ServicePunktEhrenamt Lindau*, which provides advice, matches volunteers with suitable organisations, and supports clubs, associations, and initiatives across the city. One prominent example of civic engagement is the Volunteer Fire Brigade of Lindau (*Freiwillige Feuerwehr Lindau*), which relies on trained volunteers to support firefighting, rescue operations, and public safety. Further information is available at www.service-punkt-ehrenamt.de.



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Service Punkt Ehrenamt

Köchlinstraße 13

<https://www.service-punkt-ehrenamt.de>



Joining a Club

Joining a club is usually uncomplicated. One can contact the club via email, phone, or through the website and often participate in a trial session for free. If one decides to become a member, a monthly or annual membership fee is usually paid. The amount of the fee depends on the club. For children, adolescents, students, trainees, families, and sometimes also retirees, there are often reduced fees. The exact costs are explained personally by the respective club or on its website.

Our Tip:

Lindau clubs regularly organise sports and cultural events such as tournaments, regattas on Lake Constance, concerts, club and city festivals, which provide a great opportunity to get to know the clubs and make initial contacts.



© Lisa Reznik , Music School in Villa Holdereggen

Religious Communities in Lindau

In Lindau, there are **several religious communities and places of worship**. These include various Christian churches, mainly Roman Catholic and Protestant congregations, as well as Orthodox, New Apostolic, and free churches. In addition, there is a Muslim community with the Fatih Mosque.

Religious communities offer support for families, newcomers, and people in difficult situations through pastoral care and social services, including the work of Diakonie Lindau. Some services and activities are held in other languages than German, such as Turkish in the mosque or the native languages used in Orthodox churches.



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Religious communities also take part in local culture and festivals, especially at Christmas, Easter, and during the traditional Lindau *Kinderfest*. Many religious communities organise youth groups and social activities, such as the *youth church luv junge Kirche Lindau* or groups like the Kolping family. People can get involved by joining youth groups, helping at events, or doing volunteer work through churches or other religious organisations.

Lindau is known for its **commitment to interfaith dialogue**, having hosted international meetings such as "Religions for Peace." In addition, the *friedens räume Lindau* regularly host events that encourage exchange across religious and cultural boundaries. Through lectures, panel discussions, readings, and cultural formats, they provide a space where people of different faiths and worldviews can meet, share perspectives, and engage in respectful dialogue.

Catholic Church:

- *Münster Unserer Lieben Frau*, Main Catholic Church on Lindau Island
- *St. Josef Kirche* in Reutin
- *St. Maria Königin des Friedens* in Zechwaldstraße
- *St. Ludwig* in Aeschach
- *St. Johannes der Täufer* in Enzisweiler
- *St. Pelagius* in Oberreitnau
- *St. Urban und Sylvester* in Unterreitnau

Protestant / Lutheran Church:

- *St. Stephan Kirche* on Lindau Island
- *St. Verena Kirche* in Reutin
- *Christkirche* in Aeschach
- *Versöhnerkirche* in Zech

Orthodox Christian Communities:

- *Griechisch-Orthodoxe Kirchengemeinde Heiliger Eleftherios* in Aeschach
- *Russisch-Orthodoxe Kirchengemeinde* in Zech

Free Churches & Other Christian Denominations

- New Apostolic Church Lindau
- Free Baptist Church Lindau
- Free Christian Church Lindau
- Free Evangelical Church
- Seventh-day Adventist Church
- Jehovah's Witnesses

Islamic Community

- Central Mosque of Lindau, Fatih Moschee
- Islamic Association Lindau e.V



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Help and Support

In Lindau, there are various **points of contact** you can turn to if you need help or support. Whether you are feeling homesick, facing family difficulties, experiencing financial problems, or simply need someone to talk to, there are dedicated services and people ready to support you. **You are not alone, and help is always available when you need it.** Migration counselling and many other advisory services are free of charge.

Our Tip:

Download the **mbeon app** for free and get advice online in multiple languages. With **mbeon**, you can easily contact experts and get support without having to visit an office in person. It's a convenient way to find help anytime, anywhere
- right from your phone.



Contact Point	Support Structures
Integrationsbeirat Lindau Bregenzer Straße 33 08382 270-206 integrationsbeirat@landkreis-lindau.de	• Integration Advisory Board (<i>Integrationsbeirat</i>) of the City of Lindau • A consultative body that represents the interests of people with a migration background • Advises the city council and municipal administration on matters related to integration, promoting equal participation in social, cultural, political, and economic life, and supporting dialogue between the local government, civil society, and migrant communities
Asyl, Integration und Migrationsberatung der Diakonie Freihofstraße 16 a 0173 439028 / 0152 09333083 poststelle@landkreis-lindau.de	• Guidance on residence topics • Help with integration questions (bureaucracy, authorities, documents) • Support with settling in (social services, etc.)
CJD Lindau (<i>Jugendmigrationsdienst</i>) Robert-Bosch-Straße 29a 08382 94 25050 michael.rapp@cjd.de	• Support with vocational integration, job orientation, or training for young people under the age of 28
Psychologische Beratungsstellen für Ehe-, Familien- und Lebensfragen der Diözese Augsburg Ludwig-Kick-Straße 19a 08382 5568 efl-lindau@bistum-augsburg.de	• Support with psychological stress • Help with family or relationship challenges that arise while living abroad

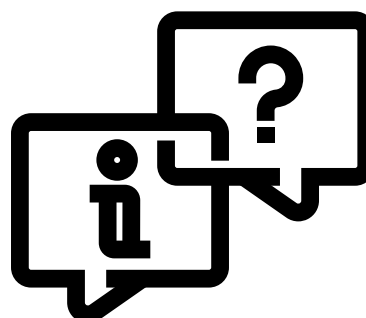
Contact Point	Support Structures
Schuldner- und Insolvenzberatung Diakonie Allgäu Maximilianstraße 20 08382 50426-20 schube.lindau@diakonie-allgaeu.de	• Help with financial problems, debt management • Advice on budgeting and dealing with creditors
Sozialpsychiatrischer Dienst Diakonie Allgäu Steigstraße 36 08382 22012 spdi.lindau@diakonie-allgaeu.de	• Advice on mental health challenges • Support in difficult life situations, stress, anxiety, isolation
Allgemeine Sozialberatung Caritas für den Landkreis Lindau e.V. Anheggerstraße 2f 08382 75001-0 mail@caritas-lindau.de http://www.caritas-lindau.de/	• Assistance with social, family, financial, or personal issues • General integration support • Help navigating local systems and authorities
Katholische Beratungsstelle für Schwangerschaftsstellen Fischergasse 14 08382 948 690 schwangerenberatung.lindau@skf-augsburg.de	• Advice on pregnancy, parenting, legal and financial questions related to pregnancy
Suchtfachambulanz Lindau Fischergasse 14 08382 9486-88 suchtfachambulanz.lindau@caritas-augsburg.de	• Assistance with addiction issues (alcohol, drugs, other dependencies)
KJF Erziehungs-, Jugend und Familienberatung Lindau Ludwig-Kick-Straße 19a 08382 4190 eb.lindau@kjf-kjh.de	• Support for parenting, family stress, child development issues
Nachbarschaftshilfe Lindau e.V. Kemptnerstr. 10A 08382 9110043 info@nachbarschaftshilfe-lindau.de	• Quick help with social needs like schooling supports, small daily needs

Contact Point	Support Structures
Women's Shelter / Support - Hilfe für Frauen in Not e.V. Postfach 3163 0172 885 1483	Emergency support, shelter, protection for women in crisis
ServicePunktEhrenamt Köchlinstraße 13 01520 8741184 info@service-punkt-ehrenamt.de	Connects people with volunteer opportunities, supports community engagement, offers advice for those who want to get involved / build networks in Lindau (including information on voluntary services, training, and coordination)
Mehrgenerationenhaus Treffpunkt Zech Adelheid-Donderer-Straße 1 08382 750960 info@treffpunkt-zech.de	A neighbourhood and intercultural hub providing space for social meetups, courses, events, intercultural exchange and community support — ideal for meeting people, taking part in activities (like courses, digital cafés, cooking events), and fostering community integration
IHK Schwaben Mr Ibrahim Rahimi Stettenstraße 1 + 3, 86150 Augsburg 0821 3162-1411 ibrahim.rahimi@schwaben.ihk.de	- Providing information and advice on dual vocational training opportunities in Germany for migrants and refugees. - Helping individuals understand career options, required documents, and how the German training system works. - Advising on residence status implications, workplace culture, and training pathways. - Supporting with contacts to companies for internships, training places, and practical integration steps. - Working with companies to help them recruit and integrate trainees with migrant backgrounds. - Mr Rahimi offers consultation in multiple languages including German, English, Persian, Pashto, Urdu, French

Useful Websites:



- www.bamf.de/migrationsberatung
- www.mbeon.de (online advice portal for adults)
- www.your-way-in-germany.org (online advice portal for young people under 28)



Emergency Numbers



Emergency numbers are free and open 24 hours a day.

Service	Number	Notes
Police	110	Nationwide emergency number
Fire & Ambulance	112	Nationwide emergency number
Out-of-hours medical service	116 117	Non-life-threatening urgent care phone line
Poison emergency hotline	089 19240	Munich poison control (works nationwide)
Crisis helpline	0800 111 0 111/ 0157 35998143	Nationwide free, 24/7 emotional support
Hospital <i>Asklepios Klinik</i> Lindau, Friedrichshafener Straße 82	08382 2762050	Emergency room
Dental Emergency	www.notdienst-zahn.de	Find on-call emergency dentists by postcode.
Pharmacies on duty (<i>Apotheken-Notdienst</i>)	www.aponet.de/notdienst-suche , 0800 00 22833	Shows which pharmacy is open at night/weekends.
Women's abuse hotline	116 016	National helpline for women affected by violence.

Further important contacts

Service	Number	Notes
Universal Card Blocking (<i>Sperrnummer</i>)	116 116	Block lost/stolen cards (all German banks)
Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency (ADS)	0800 546 546 2	National anti-discrimination advice

Taxi Services and Car Rentals



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Taxi Services

Service	Number and website
City Taxi Lindau	08382 5555 0162 8015279 https://city-taxi-lindau.de/
Taxi ATI	08382 407447 0151 432 17783 bestellung@taxiati.eu
Bodensee Taxi Aktay	08382 3550 0151 111 17839 bodenseetaxi@web.de
Taxi Ekinci Lindau	01573 0970270 info@taxi-ekinci-lindau.de
Taxi Yener Lindau	08382 899 51 48 0152 0950 0500 taxiyener@gmail.com
Taxibetrieb Wambach	08382 1015 0170-8881015 info@taxi-lindau.com

Car Rentals

Service	Address and website
SIXT Autovermietung Lindau	Kemptener Str. 99 https://www.sixt.de/mietwagen/deutschland/lindau/lindau/
Europcar Lindau	Peter-Dornier-Straße 1 https://www.europcar.de/de-de/places/autovermietung-germany/lindau/lindau
Hertz Autovermietung	Bregenzer Str. 20a-22 https://www.hertz.de/rentacar/location/deutschland/lindau/
Opel Rent	Bregenzer Str. 43-45 https://www.opelrent.de/in/bayern/lindau.html



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Glossary of Common German Terms

Anmeldung	The official registration of your address at the local registration office when you move to Lindau.
BahnCard	A discount card from <i>Deutsche Bahn</i> that reduces the price of train tickets.
Betriebsrat	A works council that represents employees' interests within a company.
Biomüll	Organic waste such as food leftovers and plant material.
Deutschlandticket	A monthly paid ticket that allows unlimited travel with all means of local public transport in Germany.
Führerschein	Licence you need to legally drive a vehicle.
Gelber Sack/Gelbe Tonne	A yellow bag/bin used for collecting recyclable household waste.
Gleitzeit	A flexible working hours system where employees can choose their start and end times within set limits.
Haftpflichtversicherung	Insurance that covers damage you accidentally cause to other people or their property.
Hausarzt	A doctor who provides general medical care.
Hausordnung	Guidelines for behaviour in a building.
Kaltmiete	Rent excluding additional costs.
Kaution	A security deposit paid by a tenant to the landlord, usually refunded when moving out.
Krankenkasse	A health insurance fund or provider in Germany that covers medical costs for its members.
Krankschreibung	An official medical certificate stating that a person is unable to work due to illness.

Kündigungsfrist	A period required to end a job contract.
Lohnsteuer	Tax you have to pay for your income.
Mietvertrag	A rental contract between a tenant and a landlord.
Mülltrennung	A system of separating waste into different categories for recycling..
Nebenkosten	Additional costs on top of rent in Germany, such as utilities, heating, water, rubbish collection, and building maintenance.
Pfand	A refundable deposit paid on bottles/cans, repaid when they are brought back for recycling.
Probezeit	A trial period at the beginning of a job during which termination is easier.
Restmüll	Non-recyclable household waste.
Ruhezeiten	Legally protected hours when loud noise is not allowed.
Rundfunkbeitrag (GEZ)	Every household in Germany must pay for the financing of public TV and radio.
Sozialversicherungsnummer	A social security number used to identify individuals for social security purposes.
Steuer-ID	A personal tax identification number you need for all tax related matters.
Steuerklasse	A tax category to decide how much income tax is deducted from your salary.
Terminvergabe	Scheduling of appointments, for example for medical treatments; in Germany you usually also need an appointment to visit most public offices (e.g. <i>Bürgerbüro</i> or <i>Ausländerbehörde</i>).

Verein	A registered association or club, for example for sports or social activities.
Warmmiete	The total rent including additional costs (like utilities and heating); electricity is usually not included.
Wertstoffhof	A recycling centre where you bring large or special waste items, and also where you can take or drop off yellow bags for recyclable packaging.
Wohnungsgeberbestätigung	A document from the landlord confirming a person has moved into an apartment. You need this for address registration.



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