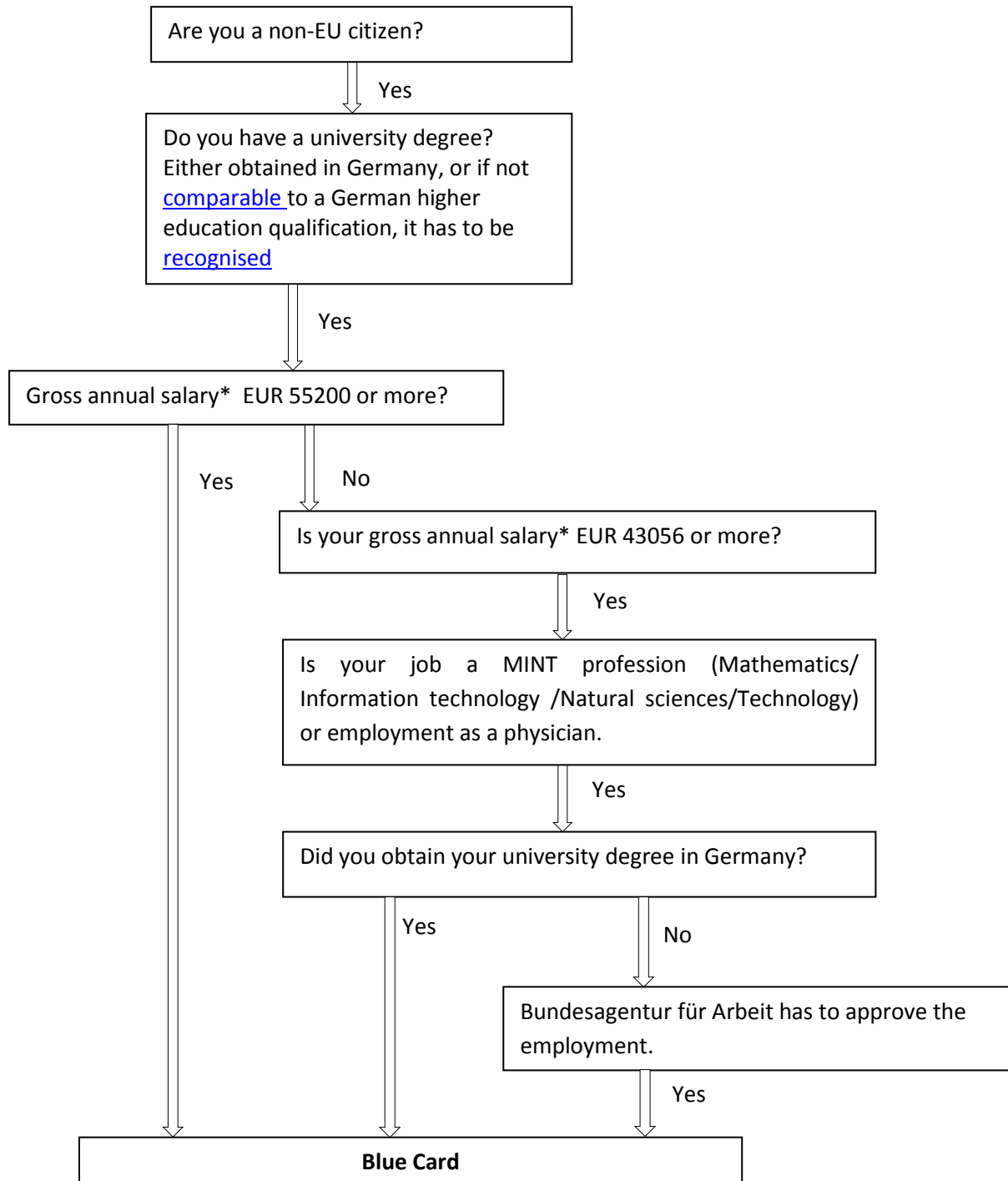


Germany

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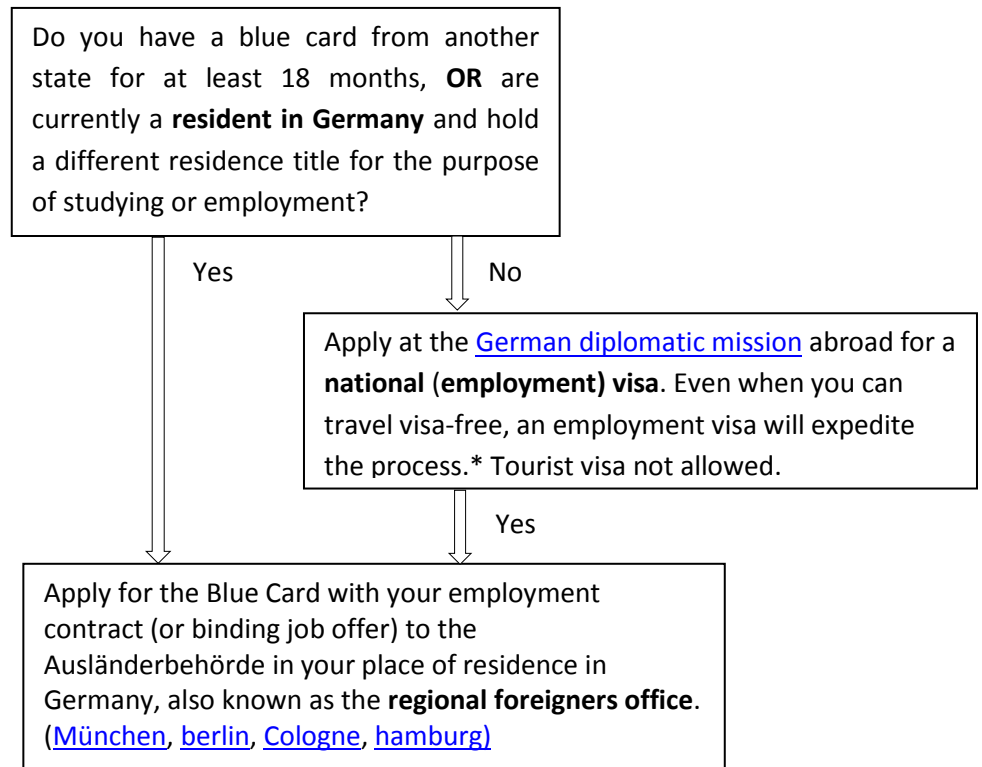
The “EU Blue Card” is a single residence- and work permit. The permit is linked to the holder, not the job.

Eligibility for the EU Blue Card Germany



*) 2020 Salary requirement. Pre-2020 blue card holders with running employment contract do not have to comply with new salary requirement.

Obtaining the Blue Card



*) Citizen of the USA, Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland and South Korea **do not need a visa** to travel to Germany. It is however recommended to apply for an employment visa as it allows you to work upon arrival.

Processing time

Immigration service approves and issues the blue card within days to weeks, depending on the backlog of applications. Maximum processing time is three months.

Duration of validity

The blue card is issued for a term of at least one year and a maximum term of four years. The job contract has to correspond to a minimum of such a term. To facilitate renewal, Blue card will indicate an additional three months in the end date. The blue card card's term may be extended multiple times.

NOTE: The required term of minimum one year is no longer communicated by German authorities, new proposed blue card rules indicate a minimum employment contract term of six months.

Changing jobs

In the first **two years** employment, authorization needs to be acquired from the immigration services to change jobs within Germany. After 18 Months one is allowed to take up employment in another blue card issuing country.

In case of unemployment, the blue card remains valid for three months enabling the holder to find a new job. The EU Blue Card holder shall communicate the beginning of the period of unemployment to the competent authorities of the Member State of residence, in accordance with the relevant national procedures.

Family reunification

Spouse and siblings (under 18) may join the blue card holder. They do not have to meet the requirements for the blue card. Visa for spouse and children **may** be issued upon issuance of a national visa to the (prospective) blue card holder, so they can travel together. Consult German diplomatic mission for details on issue dates.

Key advantages of blue card Germany to holder:

- Permanent residency after 33 months. If you can prove that your acquired language skills comply with level B1 of the Common European Reference Framework for Languages (CEFR), you can obtain your permanent residence permit after just 21 months.
- The EU Blue Card entitles the holder to spend visa-free periods of up to 90 days within a 180-day period in the other [Schengen States](#) for the purpose of tourism. Holders of an EU Blue Card can enter another Member State without a visa after 18 months and apply for the EU Blue Card of that Member State within a period of one month.
- Stay in **non-EU** countries for up to 12 consecutive months without your blue card expiring. This provision also includes family members.
- Spouse of blue card holder has access to labour market.

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Key source:

<https://www.bamf.de/DE/Themen/MigrationAufenthalt/ZuwandererDrittstaaten/Migrathek/BlaueKarteEU/blauekarteeu-node.html>