

# State Administration Authority (LABO) Berlin - Foreigners' Authority -

Offices: Berlin-Mitte  
Friedrich-Krause-Ufer 24, D-13353 Berlin

## Information concerning the commencement of self-employment (only applies to citizens who do not possess EU, EEA, or Swiss nationality) - §21 German Residence Act -

If you intend to commence self-employment, you may be granted a residence permit, if

1. There are overriding economic interests or special regional requirements;
2. The activity is expected to have a positive effect on the economy; and
3. Implementation of your project is secured financially by either your own funds or a loan commitment.

Conditions 1 and 2 are generally deemed to apply if at least EUR 500,000 is invested and five jobs are created.

Eligibility as per the above prerequisites will be assessed, if necessary involving the relevant specialist authorities, e.g. the senate department responsible for economic affairs and/or the Berlin Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

A **complete company profile**, i.e. a structured and detailed description of a business idea, **must** be submitted in order to be able to assess eligibility. The appropriate forms are available on the homepage of the Foreigners' Authority ([www.berlin.de/lab0/abh](http://www.berlin.de/lab0/abh)). The following information is required:

- Company profile
- Business plan
  - Concept
  - Curriculum vitae
- Capital requirements
- Capital budget
- Business forecast

If you are a freelance architect, artist, language teacher, or practicing another self-employed profession, you do not need to submit a company profile or business plan. The Foreigners' Authority will assess your application on the basis of your curriculum vitae, professional experience, and qualifications as well as any references you have provided. The financing of your enterprise can best be described using the business forecast form. Before a residence permit can be issued you will be required to submit any necessary practicing certificate. **Any questions?** Then contact us by ☎ on **+49 (0)30 90269 4000** or e-mail us at [abh@labo.verwalt-berlin.de](mailto:abh@labo.verwalt-berlin.de).

*Note:* Entrepreneurs over the age of 45 must also provide proof of a suitable retirement plan. This assumes that at the age of 65 they will have an estimated fortune of at least EUR 180,000 at their disposal for their retirement!

To assist us in processing your application as quickly as possible, please complete all the forms and return them in duplicate along with your application. Unfortunately your application may take up to 8 weeks or longer to assess.

**Please note that your application may be rejected if the necessary documents are not submitted to the Foreigners' Authority in Berlin within a period of 3 months after filing your application.**

**If your application is successful, the Foreigners' Authority in Berlin will issue you with a residence permit valid for 1 to 3 years.**