Welcome to Ulm and the region of Upper Swabia!
Welcome brochure for international skilled workers and qualified professionals
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The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Ulm (“IHK Ulm”) has compiled this guideline to assist you in getting answers to these questions. Containing basic information as well as further references and links to websites and contacts in the region, this brochure is intended to serve as guidance for international skilled workers and qualified professionals to facilitate their fresh start in the region. It also serves as a guideline for companies interested in employing staff from other countries.

Funded by the Ministry of Finance and Economics Baden-Württemberg.
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Arriving in Germany

Whether foreign nationals need a visa, a residency permit or a work permit in Germany, depends on their nationality. Citizens of other member states of the European Union (EU), the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland enjoy freedom of movement and are entitled to enter, live and work in Germany.

Citizens of other countries usually require a visa if they want to enter Germany. They must apply for this visa at the relevant German diplomatic mission (embassy or consulate) before travelling to Germany. For certain countries, exceptions may apply. For further detailed information, please visit www.make-it-in-germany.com, section “For qualified professionals”.

Visas for longer stays or work visas should be applied for several months before travelling to Germany.
First steps in your new home

Some paperwork is unavoidable. The following pages contain useful tips:

Registration

Whoever wishes to stay longer than two months in Germany has to register with the authorities within one week after arriving.

The registration authorities may differ from town to town: In the city of Ulm, for example, citizens from EU or EEA countries register at a service centre (such as the Service Center Neue Mitte www.ulm.de/servicecenter; for all addresses see www.ulm.de under "Politik & Verwaltung" ⇒ "Lebenssituationen" ⇒ "Umzug"). You will have to bring your passport and your tenancy agreement. Anyone arriving from a foreign country must register directly with the foreigners’ registration office: Ausländeramt, Kornhausplatz 4. In addition, you have to bring your employment contract.
All foreigners moving to the districts of **Alb-Donau-Kreis** or **Landkreis Biberach** must register with the local residents' registration office (called “Einwohnermeldeamt”) of the municipality or the town in which they live. This office is usually located in the town hall or the citizens' advice bureau (“Bürgerbüro”). You will have to bring your passport, tenancy agreement and, if applicable, your employment contract.

Foreigners from non-EU or non-EEA countries must register with the competent foreigners’ registration office within the validity period of their visa. This is where they will be issued a residence permit. For this purpose, you have to bring your passport and a biometric passport photo. If you live in the towns of Biberach or Ehingen, please contact the foreigners’ registration office of the municipal government; in the other municipalities, the administrative district office (called “Landratsamt”) fulfils this function.

In the **city of Neu-Ulm**, citizens from EU or EEA countries register at the citizens' advice bureau: Bürgerbüro, Petrusplatz 15. You will have to bring your passport and your tenancy agreement. Citizens of other countries must also initially register with the citizens’ advice bureau. Afterwards, they will have to file an application for a residence permit with the foreigners’ registration office (Landratsamt Neu-Ulm, Kantstr. 8). Please bring your passport as well as the registration certificate from the citizens’ advice bureau.
Addresses:

City of Ulm (foreigners' registration office – Ausländeramt): Kornhausplatz 4, ph. +49 731 161-3334, auslaenderwesen@ulm.de
City of Ehingen: Marktplatz 1, ph. +49 7391 503-340, w.schantel@ehingen.de
City of Biberach: Hindenburgstraße 29, ph. +49 7351 51-480, info@biberach-riss.de
Alb-Donau-Kreis administrative district office (Landratsamt) in Ulm (foreigners' registration office – Ausländeramt): Schillerstraße 30, ph. +49 731 185-1455, auslaenderamt.ulm@alb-donau-kreis.de (It is recommended that you make an appointment.)
Ehingen branch office: Hauptstraße 41, ph. +49 7391 779-2425, auslaenderamt.ehingen@alb-donau-kreis.de (It is recommended that you make an appointment.)
Biberach administrative district office (Landratsamt) (foreigners' registration office – Ausländeramt): Rollinstraße 9, ph. +49 7351 52-6489, auslamt@biberach.de (It is recommended that you make an appointment.)
City of Neu-Ulm: Petrusplatz 15, ph. +49 731 70507340, buergerbuero@neu-ulm.de

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Tax office

Whenever someone registers a new place of residence, their data is automatically forwarded to the tax authorities. The German Federal Central Tax Office (called “Bundeszentralamt für Steuern”) assigns a **tax identification number** to each person who resides in Germany. This number is sent by regular mail.

Using this number in combination with the birth date, the employer can retrieve all data necessary for **income tax deduction**.

If **married couples** register in Germany together, they both will automatically be assigned the tax bracket IV. Alternatively, married couples can also opt for one spouse having tax bracket III and the other one tax bracket V. For this purpose they would have to file an application.

If one spouse remains in their home country, **the next step** depends on the country of origin:
1. If the other spouse lives in an EU or EEA country, the partner living in Germany can also apply for the tax bracket that applies to married couples, as well as for tax-free child allowances. Certified translations of marriage and birth certificates must be lodged with the tax office together with the application.
2. If the other spouse lives in any other country, the partner living in Germany will always be assigned tax bracket I without any tax relief for parents.

Special provisions apply to employees who plan to work in Germany for less than six months. For further information, please contact the relevant tax office.

**Addresses:**

**Ulm:** Wagnerstraße 2, ph. +49 731 1030, poststelle@fa-ulum.bwl.de  
**Biberach:** Bahnhofstraße 11, ph. +49 7351 590, poststelle@fa-biberach.bwl.de  
**branch office Riedlingen:** Kirchstraße 30, ph. +49 7371 1870  
**Ehingen:** Hehlestraße 19, ph. +49 7391 5080, poststelle@fa-ehingen.bwl.de  
**Neu-Ulm:** Nelsonallee 5, ph. +49 731 7045-0, poststelle@fa-nu.bayern.de
Joining family members

The spouse and under-age children of a foreign national living in Germany need a visa to enter Germany, unless they are citizens of an EU or EEA country or Switzerland. Spouses and children over 16 are generally required to have a basic understanding of the German language, which they will have to demonstrate when applying for their visas. For this purpose, they will have to sit a test, which the Goethe-Institut, for example, offers in many countries. There are a few exceptions, such as the family members of EU Blue Card holders, highly qualified professionals, spouses who have a university degree, as well as citizens of certain countries such as Australia, USA or Canada. Further information is available on the internet at www.bamf.de under “Migration to Germany.”

Working in Germany

Foreign nationals whose home country is not an EU or EEA country or Switzerland (so-called third countries) and who wish to work in Germany, require a special permit for this purpose. This permit must be applied for before travelling to Germany (for exceptions see www.make-it-in-germany.com).

University-trained professionals from third countries whose degree is recognised in Germany can apply for the so-called EU Blue Card at the foreigners’ registration office (“Ausländeramt”) if they have a job offer that involves a certain income. Similar rules apply to graduates and professionals from the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, the so-called STEM subjects. For further information visit www.arbeitsagentur.de.

University graduates with a degree from a third country can obtain a six-month visa for their job hunt. Foreign graduates of German universities are eligible for an 18-month residence permit for the purpose of seeking employment corresponding to their degree.
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Learning German

In the IHK district of Ulm there are many opportunities to learn German, be it in private schools or public institutions. The government offers special subsidised integration courses for migrants. The migration contact point ("Kontaktstelle Migration") at Schaffnerstraße 17, ph. +49 731 1615614, provides advisory services. Visit webgis.bamf.de for a complete list of providers.

Community college (Volkshochschule – “vhs”) addresses:

vh Ulm: Kornhausplatz 7, ph. +49 731 1530-54, www.vh-ulm.de
vhs Laupheim: Bahnhofstraße 8, ph. +49 7392 150130, www.vhs-laupheim.de
vhs Biberach: Schulstraße 8, ph. +49 7351 51-246, www.vhs-biberach.de
vhs Laichingen: Radstraße 8, ph. +49 7333 3535, www.vhs.laichingen.de

You'll find the addresses of private language schools on the internet (by searching for "Sprachschule +<place name>" for example).
Recognition of foreign qualifications

To practice in Germany, many occupations and professions require the completion of vocational training courses or university studies. These occupations or professions are called regulated professions.

If you have acquired a qualification in such a profession, you need to get your qualification recognised in order to practice in Germany.

In Ulm, the following organisations can assist you in the process of getting your foreign degree or qualification recognised: IHK (Olgastraße 95-101, ph. +49 731 173-193, balkheimer@ulm.ihk.de) for all IHK professions, the INVIA Beratungsstelle (advisory centre for the recognition of foreign degrees and qualifications) Olgastraße 137, ph. +49 731 2063-34, ulm@anerkennungsberatung-bw.de) and the Chamber of Crafts (Olgastraße 73, ph. +49 731 1425-6229, g.schiek@hwk-ulm.de). You need to make an appointment in advance.

Looking for housing

If you're looking for a flat or a house in Germany, you can either engage a **real estate agent**, who will arrange everything, or you can **actively search on your own**. If you are looking for housing yourself, you can check **internet portals** such as [www.immobilenscout24.de](http://www.immobilenscout24.de) or [www.immowelt.de](http://www.immowelt.de) for offers, or the local newspapers. The **daily newspaper** in Ulm is Südwestpresse, in Ehingen it is both Südwestpresse and Schwäbische Zeitung, in Laupheim, Biberach, Riedlingen and Laichingen it is the Schwäbische Zeitung.

**Housing co-operatives** are another option; however, house-hunters have to register with them:

- **ulmer heimstätte eG**: Söflinger Straße 72, Ulm, ph. +49 731 93553-30, info@heimstaette.de
- **Wohnungsgesellschaft der Stadt Neu-Ulm GmbH**: Schützenstr. 32, Neu-Ulm, ph. +49 731 9841-0, Info@nuwog.de
- **BSG Aufbau**: Syrlinstraße 6, Ulm, ph. +49 731 96847-0, info@aufbau-ulm.de
- **Heimstättengenossenschaft Blaubeuren eG**: Uhlandstraße 3, Blaubeuren, ph. +49 7344 919130, eMail-Box@HGB-Blaubeuren.de
Young people in particular often share a flat or house. In German, this is called "Wohngemeinschaft". Check e.g. www.wg-gesucht.de and www.studenten-wg.de for offers.

If you’re only looking for a furnished flat in the region of the IHK Ulm on a temporary basis, you could check the offers on www.wohnung-in-ulm.de or www.airbnb.com.

Another possibility is to pin an ad on the notice board in your company.
Tenant agreement

If you’re renting a house or a flat, in most cases you’ll have to enter into a written agreement with the owner. Such agreements may or may not be subject to a time limit. Unless specifically stated, flats and houses in Germany are let without furniture. Whether or not a kitchen is available, with the relevant appliances, should be checked in the specific case.

In most cases, the tenant pays a bond of up to three months’ rent before moving in, which will be paid back when moving out, unless the tenant has caused damage or still owes rent.

In addition to the base rent for the flat or house, ancillary costs, for example for heating, janitorial services and lighting in communal areas, must be paid. These costs are charged in advance on a monthly basis and settled up the following year. Please note that tenants pay some ancillary charges directly to the relevant providers (see next page).
Electricity, water supply, rubbish disposal and cleaning rota duty

In every city, there is a default utility provider with which you have to register. Your landlord will be able to tell you who the default provider is. If you wish, you can then change to another provider. There are websites on the internet dedicated to comparing electricity prices, such as www.verivox.de and www.check24.de. Be aware, though, that there might be hidden costs, and be careful when you have to make big payments in advance.

As far as water supply and rubbish disposal are concerned, tenants have no choice. You have to register with the municipality where you live or the administrative district office ("Landratsamt"). Everywhere in Germany, rubbish gets separated. This is why most households have several rubbish bins or containers. Each district as well as the cities of Ulm and Neu-Ulm has information brochures on this topic.

A special feature in Swabia is the so-called "Kehrwoche", which is a weekly cleaning rota duty in multi-tenant housing. This means that the tenants take weekly turns to clean the communal areas (such as the hallway). By the way, the German word "kehren" is a verb meaning to sweep with a broom.
Telephone, internet, TV

Telephone and internet connection are usually combined, with data either being transferred via the telephone line or via a TV cable connection. Providers differ from region to region. Online portals, such as www.verivox.de and www.check24.de, provide an overview of what's available and enable you to compare prices. Please note that the contract terms and conditions may vary significantly!

The programmes of public and private TV stations are broadcast via cable, satellite or internet. Each household is required to pay a broadcast fee of 17.50 euros per month (register at www.rundfunkbeitrag.de).

The best solution for you will depend on the local situation (cable, for example, is not available everywhere) and your personal preferences. Satellite and internet are the best options to receive foreign stations.
Social security

In Germany, employees are required to pay social-security contributions for retirement, health, nursing-care and unemployment insurance. The amount you pay depends on your income. Please check with the human resources department at your company.

Every person living in Germany must have health insurance. Most people are compulsory members of a statutory health insurance scheme. A report of the German consumer research institute “Stiftung Warentest” provides an overview of the various health insurance providers (www.test.de, search term “Gesetzliche Krankenversicherung”; only in German available). The statutory health insurance schemes provide good basic cover, also for families where only one partner is working.

Anyone earning a gross annual salary of over 56,250 euros (effective 2016) can opt for private health insurance (for more information, see www.test.de, search term “Private Krankenversicherungen”; only in German available).
In addition, voluntary private supplementary insurance exists that complements the cover offered by statutory health insurance schemes.

In all larger towns, you'll find advisory centres that offer information on statutory pension insurance in Germany (search via www.deutsche-rentenversicherung.de). Private agents and brokers as well as the internet provide information on private (supplementary) insurance.
Additional insurance (examples)

- **Liability insurance:** This type of insurance provides cover should you or your family accidentally damage other people’s property (except while driving a motor vehicle). This insurance cover is often a requirement for being able to enter into a tenancy agreement.

- **Motor vehicle liability insurance:** Covers third-party damage caused by operating a motor vehicle. This type of insurance is mandatory, i.e. you cannot register a vehicle without this insurance.

- **Comprehensive insurance plus collision coverage:** Covers damage to your own vehicle and is voluntary.

- **Legal expenses insurance:** Pays for your lawyer’s fees and court costs in certain cases. Voluntary insurance.

The consumer advice centre (“Verbraucherzentrale”) in Ulm, Frauengraben 2, [www.vz-bawue.de/ulm](http://www.vz-bawue.de/ulm), provides, for a fee, unbiased information as to which type of insurance is recommended in the individual case. For an appointment, call +49 711 9677450. Or visit [www.test.de](http://www.test.de) for further information (some downloads incur a charge).
Healthcare in Germany

As soon as you become a member of a health insurance scheme, you will receive an electronic health insurance card (chip card), which you will have to present at your doctor’s office. Patients are largely free to choose their doctors or hospitals. It is advisable to make an appointment first.

Ask friends and colleagues which doctors they recommend or check on the internet on websites such as www.arztsuche-bw.de and www.ulmer-aerzte.de.

Outside normal working hours, medical emergency services are available. Their exact hours differ from place to place. For details check on the websites of the relevant municipalities (in most cases, the address will be: www.<place name>.de (for example www.ulm.de, www.ehingen.de, www.laupheim.de, but: www.biberach-riss.de).

In emergencies, you’ll reach the ambulance service and the fire and rescue service by dialling 112, and the police by dialling 110.
Taxation in Germany

**Income tax:** Every person working in Germany must pay tax on their income. For employees, the employer automatically deducts the relevant taxes from their gross wage/salary and pays them directly to the tax office.

**Tax return:** If you have more than one employer or if you receive casual earnings, you will have to file a tax return with your tax office by no later than 31 May the following year. If you have high income-related expenses, you may be able to claim them as deductions from your tax by filing a voluntary tax return.

The tax offices answer general questions on the subject of taxes. Income tax assistance associations ("Lohnsteuerhilfevereine") (for addresses see www.lohi-bw.de for example) and independent tax advisers and consultants provide advice on specific cases.
Travelling by bus, train or plane

Numerous bus and tram lines operate in the IHK district of Ulm, both within the urban area and between the municipalities (www.ding.eu).

Via the main railway station of Ulm, the region is connected to the German high-speed train network. There are direct trains to bigger cities and many regional trains (www.bahn.de).

The closest major airports are Stuttgart and Munich. Smaller airports are located in Memmingen, Friedrichshafen and Augsburg.

If you don’t have a car, you can join a car-sharing organisation:
confishare Ulm, ph. +49 731 9464551, www.confishare.de,
teilAuto Biberach, ph. +49 7351 3400755, www.teilauto-biberach.de,
or hire a car from a commercial car-rental company. You’ll find their addresses on the internet.
Travelling by car

Everyone driving a car in Germany needs a valid driving licence. Driving licences issued in EU or EEA countries are valid in Germany until their expiry. Citizens from other countries can drive for up to six months using their existing driving licence, provided that they also carry an international driving licence or a certified translation of their national licence. At the end of that period, they have to apply for a German driving licence. For more information, check with the local agencies responsible for granting driving licences.

Foreign citizens permanently residing in Germany (i.e. longer than 185 days), have to re-register any cars they may have brought with them. They will then receive a German number plate, for example “UL” for Ulm and the Alb-Donau-Kreis district, or “BC” for the Biberach district. Likewise, if you buy a car in Germany, you’ll have to register it in your name. For more information, check with the local vehicle registration office.
Banking

In Germany, the payments for rent, utilities and insurance premiums are usually transferred from a **current account** with a bank or credit institution. Alternatively, you can also arrange for a direct debit from your account. Likewise, salary and wages are also transferred to accounts with banks or credit institutions. Bank customers receive a **bank card** that enables them to make non-cash payments in many shops and other places. Credit cards are common, but are not accepted everywhere.

Banks in Germany can be divided into the following **three categories**: savings banks (owned mostly by municipalities and municipal associations), co-operative banks and local rural credit co-operatives, and private banks. It pays to compare fees and services. (See [www.test.de](http://www.test.de), search term “Girokonto”, only in German available)

To open a bank account in Germany, you need to show identification in the form of an identity card or passport and – as a foreign national – a certificate of registration (as proof of residence). Some banks also require a payslip from your employer and your work permit.
Many banks offer online banking; in addition, there are dedicated internet banks, so-called direct banks.

With your bank card (also with foreign bank or credit cards), you can withdraw cash from the many ATMs across Germany, which are located in or at bank branches or shopping centres. The fees for ATM withdrawals differ; it therefore pays to shop around and compare.
Children must attend school

In Germany, if your child is at least six years old, he or she must attend school. Most children start out going to the nearest state-run primary school. Later they change to a secondary school.

In addition, there are private schools, which generally charge tuition fees, for example Rudolf Steiner schools (known as "Waldorf-Schulen" in Germany) and Montessori schools. These schools have a special educational approach. Another private school is the International School of Ulm/Neu-Ulm, where children are taught in English (Schwabenstraße 25, 89231 Neu-Ulm, ph. +49 731 3793530, info@is-ulm.de, www.is-ulm.de).

You'll find the addresses of all schools in the IHK region of Ulm on the website www.schulamt-biberach.de under "Service" / “Schulverzeichnis”.

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Germany's schooling system

After four years of primary school, most children move to one of the following types of secondary schools, some of which also provide all-day supervision.

- "Hauptschule" (non-academic secondary school, in Bavaria called „Mittelschule“) / "Werkrealschule" (technical secondary school): students graduate after grade nine or ten. They can then commence their vocational training or continue their schooling.
- "Realschule" (mid-level secondary school): students graduate after grade ten. This forms a good basis for vocational training or further schooling.
- "Gymnasium" (academic secondary school): at the end of the 12th or 13th grade, students receive a university-entry diploma upon passing the relevant examination, which is a good basis for a future career.
- "Gemeinschaftsschule" (comprehensive school): in this relatively new type of school, pupils are not divided into different streams after completing primary school and can attain any of the above school-leaving qualifications.

See for example www.make-it-in-germany.de under the "Living" menu item, for more information on the German schooling system.
Many ways into jobs

Roughly half of the young people graduating from school in Germany take up vocational training for one of some 330 recognised occupations or trades, which is in most cases three years. This vocational training is split into on-the-job training in a company and further study in a vocational school ("Berufsschule"). This combined work/training scheme is called “duale Ausbildung” (dual education).

For further information on occupations that require formal training in the area of industry, service and trade, contact IHK Ulm (Olgastraße 95-101, ph. +49 731 173-333, ausbildung@ulm.ihk.de, www.ulm.ihk24.de/aus_und_weiterbildung). The IHK offers a wide range of information and services centring on the topic of education and training, such as an aptitude check that enables young people to figure out where their personal strengths lie.

For information on skilled trades, contact the Chamber of Crafts in Ulm (Handwerkskammer Ulm, Olgasraße 72, www.hk-ulm.de). The contact details for Ulm and Alb-Donau-Kreis are as follows: ph. +49 731 1425-6227, e-mail: m.maier@hwk-ulm.de, and for the Biberach district: ph. +49 731 1425-6224, e-mail: m.scheiffele@hwk-ulm.de).
For some jobs, such as child-care providers or geriatric nurses, trainees have to attend specialised colleges.

After passing their university-entrance exam, many young people take up a course of study at a university, a technical college or a co-operative university ("Duale Hochschule"). For information on all study courses in Baden-Württemberg and the region, check www.studieninfo-bw.de or www.südkurs.de.

The office for educational guidance in Ulm, "Bildungsberatung Ulm", (Neue Straße 79, ph. +49 731 5022044, info@bildungsberatung-ulm.de, www.bildungsberatung-ulm.de), also provides comprehensive information as does the German employment agency Agentur für Arbeit (www.arbeitsagentur.de), which has the following branch offices within the district of the IHK Ulm:
Ulm, Wichernstr. 5
Biberach, Waldseer Str. 34
Ehingen, Winckelhoferstr. 3
Child care

Children are happy when they can play with children of the same age and quickly learn the language of their new home this way. Depending on the age of your children, the following child-care options exist:

- Crèches (run by cities, churches, associations and other private entities)
- In-home daycare providers, who usually care for other children as well
- Privately organised playgroups
- Kindergartens and preschools (run by cities, churches, associations and other private entities) with differing child-care services
- Daycare centres and nursery schools with mixed age groups
- All-day schools
- After-school centres

Please contact the municipal or town administration for information on the options offered in the various municipalities. The city of Ulm has set up a special family support centre (Familienbüro, Ulmergasse 15, ph. +49 731 161-5081, familienbuero@ulm.de). You can also search for available childcare places directly on the website of the city of Ulm (www.ulm.de, “Stadt Ulm” “Leben in Ulm” “Kinder, Jugend, Familie” “Kinderbetreuung”).

Assistance for (expecting) parents

Pregnant women, who are employed, enjoy a special level of protection. They may not work during a period that commences six weeks before and eight weeks after the birth. During this period, they are paid a maternity allowance.

After the child is born, mothers or fathers can apply for a parental benefit if they look after the child themselves. This benefit is paid for a period of up to 14 months. If parents opt to stay at home for longer after the birth of their child, they can take unpaid parental leave. Under normal circumstances, their employment cannot be terminated during their parental leave.

The German government pays child benefits for all children until they turn 18. Depending on the number of children, this benefit ranges from 184 to 221 euros per month (effective 2016). To receive this child benefit, you’ll have to apply to the Family Office (“Familienkasse”) of the German employment agency (“Arbeitsagentur”). For further information, visit “Benefits” “Child Benefit”. Also see for further details. www.familien-wegweiser.de
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Pregnant women, who are employed, enjoy a special level of protection. They may not work during a period that commences six weeks before and eight weeks after the birth. During this period, they are paid a maternity allowance.

After the child is born, mothers or fathers can apply for a parental benefit if they look after the child themselves. This benefit is paid for a period of up to 14 months. If parents opt to stay at home for longer after the birth of their child, they can take unpaid parental leave. Under normal circumstances, their employment cannot be terminated during their parental leave.

The German government pays child benefits for all children until they turn 18. Depending on the number of children, this benefit ranges from 184 to 221 euros per month (effective 2016). To receive this child benefit, you’ll have to apply to the Family Office (“Familienkasse”) of the German employment agency (“Arbeitsagentur”). For further information, visit www.arbeitsagentur.de, “Benefits” ⇒ “Child Benefit”. Also see www.familien-wegweiser.de for further details.
Leisure time

**Clubs and associations:** If you would like to meet like-minded people – to play in an orchestra, participate in a sport or to pursue other hobbies –, you can choose from hundreds of clubs and associations within the region. Special brochures and the websites of the individual municipalities provide an overview of what’s on offer in your area.

**Learning together:** To meet other people while at the same time learning something new – that’s what you can do at the community colleges ("Volkshochschulen") in the region (see page 12 for addresses). Their courses range from languages (including German as a foreign language) to politics, art and culture, social skills, health and computer literacy. The family education centres run by the protestant church ("Familienbildungsstätten") as well as the catholic education service ("Katholisches Bildungswerk"), for example, offer similar courses.

**International city of Ulm:** [www.ulm-internationalestadt.de](http://www.ulm-internationalestadt.de) offers comprehensive information on Ulm and international services, including addresses of open language-exchange groups.
Tourist attractions

There is a lot to see in the IHK region of Ulm. For example, the cathedral of Ulm, whose tower is the highest church spire in the world, the "Öchsle" steam train near Biberach, the many monasteries, castles and palaces along the famous "Barockstraße" in Upper Swabia, the Federsee natural reserve near Bad Buchau, idyllic old towns, spectacular nature and many interesting museums. What’s more, the Legoland near Günzburg is not far away either.

Local tourist information centres and the internet provide further information:

www.tourismus.ulm.de
www.biberach-tourismus.de
www.oberschwaben-tourismus.de
www.tourismus.alb-donau-kreis.de

Or check on the websites of the individual cities and municipalities.
Tips (not only) for family members

Most people working in Germany quickly establish close relationships with their colleagues and meet new people. Likewise, their children make friends easily. To help the accompanying spouses to feel at home in Germany, the Welcome Center of Ulm and Upper Swabia organises an International Club and, together with the contact point for women (“Kontaktstelle Frau und Beruf”) of the IHK Ulm it offers a Partner Support Programme providing information on topics such as job & career, further education & studies as well as volunteer work. The International Club is for foreign qualified professionals and skilled workers employed by companies in the region and their families and regularly organises events.

For further information visit www.welcomecenter-ulm-oberschwaben.de (ph. +49 731 173-304, schilder@ulm.ihk.de)

Family education centres ("Familienbildungsstätten") offer activities for the entire family, for example in Ulm: www.fbs.ulm.de and Biberach: www.fbs-biberach.de.
Contacts

Many places and townships within the IHK region of Ulm run immigration advisory offices (“Migrationsberatungsstellen”), where specialists advise migrants on the many problems that may arise in daily life. Their addresses can also be found on webgis.bamf.de.

In addition, there is the migration contact point ("Kontaktstelle Migration", Schaffnerstraße 17, ph. +49 731 161-5614, p.pfister@ulm), which is located in the community centre “Bürgerhaus Mitte”. The “Ulm – An international city” brochure, which is available in the Bürgerhaus Mitte and on www.ulm-internationalestadt.de, also contains plenty of information.

In Biberach, the integration officer is the dedicated contact person for people from abroad (Hindenburgstraße 29, ph. +49 7351 51-370, m.eisele@biberach-riss.de).

The Welcome Center at the IHK Ulm (Olgastraße 95-101, ph. +49 731 173-304, schilder@ulm.ihk.de) can also assist with comprehensive information.
This guideline has been prepared under the direction of the IHK Ulm in co-operation with the Welcome Center Ulm/Upper Swabia located at the IHK Ulm and the associated corporate network to foster the integration of skilled workers from abroad.

If you're interested in or have any questions regarding the Welcome Center or the corporate network, please contact Ms Schilder:

ph.: +49 731 173-304, e-mail: schilder@ulm.ihk.de.

Disclaimer: All information provided is carefully checked and monitored. However, we cannot assume any liability for the information and advice provided. The information is not necessarily complete, comprehensive or completely up to date and does neither constitute legal advice nor legally-binding information and cannot be a substitute for expert advice.
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