

Anmeldung

— DIE ANMELDUNG

The Anmeldung is the official address registration you must complete after moving in Germany: you go to the Bürgeramt with a Wohnungsgeberbestätigung.

Turning up at the Bürgeramt without an appointment, or with an incomplete form, gets you nowhere. In many countries you can just report a new address; in Germany it has to be on paper.

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01 00:10

Right now: book an appointment, get one piece of paper



SHORTCUT

Do two things today: **book an appointment (Termin)** on your city's **Bürgeramt** page and ask your landlord for the **Wohnungsgeberbestätigung**. The rest is fifteen minutes at the counter.

The law (§ 17 Bundesmeldegesetz) wants you registered within **two weeks** of moving in. In most cities, though, appointments come later than two weeks — that is normal and not your fault. **Do not delete the appointment confirmation e-mail:** if anyone asks why you are late, that is the document that says “the appointment was given for this date”.

- **Appointment** — Termin online buchen or by phone
- **Passport / ID** — Reisepass or Personalausweis, plus your **Aufenthaltstitel** if you have one
- **Landlord's confirmation** — Wohnungsgeberbestätigung (signed in ink)
- **Form** — Anmeldeformular, filled in at home and brought with you
- Your partner and children are registered **at the same time** — bring their passports too

You may know this from home

Many countries make you report a change of address and hand you a certificate of residence. Some, like the UK and the US, don't — which is why Germany surprises so many newcomers. The idea is the same as elsewhere; only the names differ, and **the paper still matters**.

ROUGH EQUIVALENT	IN GERMANY	WHAT IT DOES
reporting a new address	die Anmeldung	registering at your new address
reporting a change of address	die Ummeldung	you moved within the same city
certificate of residence	die Meldebescheinigung	the document that shows you are registered
residents' registration office	das Bürgeramt	the name changes from city to city

The office is called something different in almost every city: **Bürgeramt • Bürgerbüro • Bürgerservice • Einwohnermeldeamt • Kundenzentrum**. They all do the same job; use whichever word your city's website uses.

A language detail: in English you say “I'm registering” and leave “myself” out. German says it out loud — the verb is **reflexive**: **sich anmelden**. So the sentence cannot do without **mich**.

The appointment: online and by phone

Try the website first. These are the words to look for — even if the page is entirely in German, seeing these three means you are in the right place: **Termin vereinbaren • Termin buchen • Dienstleistung auswählen**. The service is usually called **Anmeldung einer Wohnung**.

WHAT YOU SEE ON SCREEN	IN ENGLISH	WHAT YOU DO
Termin vereinbaren	make an appointment	click here
Anmeldung einer Wohnung	registering a home	choose this as the service
Anzahl der Personen	number of people	including partner and children
Standort / Dienststelle	branch	in most cities any branch will do
Keine Termine verfügbar	no appointments available	check again later in the day

Appointment calendars are updated during the day, and cancellations free up slots instantly. An empty calendar can be full of options two hours later — check several times a day, not once.

If you have to call, the conversation always starts with the same three sentences. They are short enough to memorise:

✓ **Guten Tag, ich möchte einen Termin zur Anmeldung vereinbaren.**

Hello, I'd like to make an appointment to register my address.

✓ **Ich bin gerade nach Köln gezogen und muss mich anmelden.**

I've just moved to Cologne and I need to register.

✓ **Gibt es einen früheren Termin?**

Is there an earlier appointment?

If the other person talks fast, **don't hang up — slow them down with one sentence: Entschuldigung, können Sie das bitte langsamer sagen?** If you miss a date or a name: **Könnten Sie das bitte buchstabieren?** — “Could you spell that, please?” These two sentences save you on the phone; the [freezing-moments page](#) has the long version.

- ① At the end of the call, always ask: **Können Sie mir den Termin bitte per E-Mail bestätigen?** — “Could you confirm the appointment by e-mail, please?” That e-mail is both your reminder and your proof.

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04 02:35

Wohnungsgeberbestätigung — you can't do without it, and you can't sign it yourself

The name is scary, the job is simple: **a sheet your landlord signs to say “this person really has moved into my property”**. Take the word apart and it opens up: **Wohnung** (home) + **Geber** (giver) + **Bestätigung** (confirmation). So: “the confirmation of the person who provides the home”.

The person who signs is **der Wohnungsgeber**: the landlord (**Vermieter**); the operator if it is a dorm or company housing; the **main tenant** (**Hauptmieter**) if you are subletting. The sheet contains:

- **Name und Anschrift des Wohnungsgebers** — the landlord's name and address

- **Anschrift der Wohnung** — the address of the home you moved into
- **Einzugsdatum** — the day you moved in
- **Namen der Personen, die einziehen** — the names of the people moving in
- **Datum und Unterschrift** — date and signature



TRAP 1

Thinking the rental contract is enough

Der Mietvertrag (the rental contract) **does not replace this sheet**. The contract says “you rented it”, this sheet says “you actually moved in” — and the second is what the clerk wants. Plenty of people turn up with only the contract and waste their appointment.

✗ ~~Ich habe nur den Mietvertrag dabei. Reicht das?~~

I only have the rental contract with me. Is that enough? — The usual answer: no.

✓ Hier ist die **Wohnungsgeberbestätigung**, unterschrieben vom Vermieter.

Here is the landlord’s confirmation, signed by the landlord.

The message to your landlord is one line: **Guten Tag, für die Anmeldung beim Bürgeramt brauche ich die Wohnungsgeberbestätigung. Könnten Sie sie bitte unterschreiben?** — The blank form can be downloaded from your city’s website under the name **Wohnungsgeberbestätigung**; if you bring it already filled in, all your landlord has to do is sign.

05 03:25

The fields on the form — line by line

The form (**Anmeldeformular** or **Meldeschein**) is only one page and it **always follows the same order**. Fill it in at home and just sign at the counter.

FIELD	WHAT IT MEANS	WHAT YOU WRITE
Familiename	surname	as in your passport
Vorname(n)	first name(s)	include your middle name if you have one
Geburtsname	surname at birth	if it changed when you married ; empty if it didn't
Geburtsdatum	date of birth	in the order TT.MM.JJJJ (day . month . year)
Geburtsort	place of birth	name of the city
Staatsangehörigkeit	nationality	türkisch

FIELD	WHAT IT MEANS	WHAT YOU WRITE
Familienstand	marital status	ledig - verheiratet - geschieden - verwitwet
Religionszugehörigkeit	religious affiliation	it is there for the church tax
Einzugsdatum	move-in date	the day you actually moved in
Neue Anschrift	new address	Straße - Hausnummer - PLZ - Ort
Bisherige Wohnung	previous address	if you come from abroad , your address back home
Haupt- oder Nebenwohnung	main / secondary residence	if you have only one home , Hauptwohnung

The **Religionszugehörigkeit** field is not a religion survey, it is a **tax question**: in Germany some churches collect a **Kirchensteuer** from their members, and the state deducts it from your salary. If you don't belong to a church that collects tax, you write **keine** — the options below the box hint at this anyway.



TRAP 2

Writing the date the way you do at home

Germany writes **day.month.year**: 01.08.2026 = 1 August. Read the American way, the same digits mean 8 January. So on the form **separate the numbers with dots** and don't use slashes. Also, the **Einzugsdatum** is not the day the contract starts but **the day you got the keys and moved in**.

✗ Ich bin **in** 1. August eingezogen.

Wrong preposition — you don't use **in** with a date.

✓ Ich bin **am** 1. August eingezogen.

I moved in on 1 August.

✓ Ich wohne **seit dem** 1. August in der Wohnung.

I've been living in the flat since 1 August.

The rule is short: **am** for a **day**, **im** for a **month** (im August), **seit** + Dativ for **"since..."**.

06 04:15

At the counter: what the clerk asks, what you say

You take a number, and your number and a room number light up on a screen: **Bitte Nummer B14, Zimmer 3**. Once you are inside, the conversation almost always runs in the same order.

THE CLERK SAYS	IN ENGLISH	YOU SAY
Haben Sie einen Termin?	Do you have an appointment?	Ja , um zehn Uhr , auf den Namen Yildiz .
Ihren Ausweis bitte .	Your ID , please .	Hier bitte , mein Reisepass .
Haben Sie die Wohnungsgeberbestätigung dabei?	Do you have the landlord's confirmation with you?	Ja , hier ist sie .
Wann sind Sie eingezogen?	When did you move in?	Am ersten August .
Ist das Ihre einzige Wohnung in Deutschland?	Is this your only home in Germany?	Ja , das ist meine einzige Wohnung .
Ziehen weitere Personen mit ein?	Is anyone else moving in with you?	Ja , meine Frau und mein Sohn .
Bitte unterschreiben Sie hier unten .	Please sign down here .	Gerne .
Brauchen Sie eine Meldebescheinigung?	Do you need a certificate of registration?	Ja bitte , zwei Stück .

Saying **yes** to the last line usually makes life easier. The printout showing the registration is done (**Anmeldebestätigung**) is handed to you anyway; the **Meldebescheinigung** is a separate document issued on request, and some institutions ask for it. Getting it later can mean another appointment. There is usually a small fee, and the amount depends on the city.

When it is done you leave with **two things**: the **Anmeldebestätigung** (a printout showing the registration is done; officially called **Meldebestätigung**) and, if you want it, the **Meldebescheinigung**. Within a few weeks the **steuerliche Identifikationsnummer (Steuer-ID)** will also arrive in your letterbox — **don't throw that letter away**; it is the first number your employer will ask for.



TRAP 3

Mixing up Anmeldung · Ummeldung · Abmeldung

All three come from the verb **melden** (to report), and the prefix changes the meaning. Pick the wrong one and you either burn an appointment or your registration in Germany never closes.

WORD	WHEN	WHERE
die Anmeldung	you moved to a new city / to Germany	the office of your new city
die Ummeldung	you changed homes in the same city	same office, same form
die Abmeldung	you are leaving Germany for good	before you leave, it closes your registration

The most common mistake: trying to do an **Abmeldung** first when moving from Berlin to Hamburg. **When you change cities inside Germany you do not cancel your registration** — once you do the **Anmeldung** in the new city, the system closes the old one by itself. An **Abmeldung** is only needed when you leave **the country** or give up a second home.

✗ **Ich ziehe nach Hamburg um. Muss ich mich ~~hier abmelden~~?**

I'm moving to Hamburg. Do I have to deregister here? — No.

✓ **Ich ziehe nach Hamburg um und melde mich **dort neu an**.**

I'm moving to Hamburg and will register anew there.

When you leave Germany for good, don't neglect the **Abmeldung**: if your registration stays open, payments such as the **Rundfunkbeitrag** (the broadcasting fee) keep running in your name.

07 05:05

The part nobody tells you: form language is a different German

If you can't find the words on the form in a dictionary, your vocabulary is not the problem. Official German — **Amtsdeutsch** — differs from everyday German in **two ways**, and both make a dictionary useless.

One: it glues words together. **Wohnungsgeberbestätigung** is not in the dictionary because it is not one word but **three words stuck together**. The fix is not memorising but **reading from the end backwards**: the last part tells you what it is (...**bestätigung** = a confirmation), the earlier parts tell you whose and of what.

Two: it turns verbs into nouns (**Nominalstil**). Everyday German says **Wenn du in eine Wohnung einziehst, musst du dich anmelden**. On a form the same sentence reads **Bei Einzug in eine Wohnung ist eine Anmeldung erforderlich**. Same information — but the verbs have vanished, replaced by **Einzug** and **Anmeldung**.

ON THE FORM	EVERYDAY GERMAN	IN ENGLISH
die Anschrift	die Adresse	address
der Einzug	einziehen	moving in
der Auszug	ausziehen	moving out
meldepflichtig	muss sich anmelden	obliged to register
der Ehegatte	der Mann / die Frau	spouse
erforderlich	nötig	required
der Wohnungsgeber	der Vermieter	landlord

Once you know the right-hand column you will understand the left one too — but not the other way round. When you speak, use the **right-hand** column; only recognise the left-hand one for **reading**.

Then there are the **abbreviations** you see on the clerk's screen and in letters. They are not in the dictionary because they are not words, they are note-taking:

- HW / NW — Hauptwohnung / Nebenwohnung, main residence / secondary residence
- ggf. — gegebenenfalls, "if necessary"
- lt. — laut, "according to..."
- Bem. — Bemerkung, the remarks line
- z. H. — zu Händen, on an envelope: "attention of..."
- TT.MM.JJJJ — Tag.Monat.Jahr, day.month.year

One last thing: the sentences aimed at you at the counter are often **passive** — **Sie werden aufgerufen**. (you will be called), **Der Antrag wird bearbeitet**. (the application is being processed). Because no subject is visible, you hesitate: "is that meant for me?" Answer: yes, it is. The tone is not rudeness, it is **the institution's impersonal way of speaking**.

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08 05:45

What to do this week

This topic sticks not through memorising but by **getting the papers ready in order**. Five steps:

- Find the **Termin vereinbaren** button on your city's website and book the appointment today — don't look once and give up, try again during the day.
- Send your landlord the one-line message: **Könnten Sie bitte die Wohnungsgeberbestätigung unterschreiben?**
- Download the **Anmeldeformular** and fill in the twelve fields; think twice about **Geburtsname** and **Einzugsdatum**.
- Read the eight answers from the counter table out loud — especially **Am ersten August**. and **Ja, das ist meine einzige Wohnung**.

- On appointment day, pack: passports · signed landlord confirmation · filled-in form · appointment e-mail. When the counter asks about the **Meldebescheinigung**, say **yes**.

- ① Once you are registered, two things are next: a bank account and health insurance. You will build the same sentence for both — the past tense page connects right here: **Ich habe mich letzte Woche angemeldet.**

09 BUILD

Build the sentence yourself

Tap the words and put them in order. This is the hardest part of German — and there are no options to pick from, **you** build it.

TAP THE WORDS

TAP THE WORDS

TAP THE WORDS

TIPS

Know this before the test

The core of the topic in three lines, then the mistakes people make most often.

01

Within two weeks, by appointment

Registration at the **Bürgeramt** is compulsory within **14 days** of moving. In big cities appointments can come late; keep the date of your appointment request as proof.

einen Termin beim
Bürgeramt buchen

02

Two documents are enough

Passport + **Wohnungsgeberbestätigung** (the confirmation signed by your landlord). The rental contract does NOT replace this document.

Reisepass ·
Wohnungsgeberbestätigung

03

You get an **Anmeldebestätigung** when you leave

The registration printout issued at the end (officially **Meldebestätigung**) is asked for everywhere from banks to insurers. If you lose it, you get a **Meldebescheinigung** instead, for a fee.

die Anmeldebestätigung

The prefix changes the procedure

anmelden to register ·
ummelden to change your
address within a city ·
abmelden to have your
registration deleted. One
root, three procedures.

an- · um- · ab-

✗ ~~I showed the rental contract, that's enough.~~

✓ The Wohnungsgeberbestätigung is required.

The registration office wants the separate confirmation signed by your landlord; the contract does not replace it.

✗ ~~I moved within the city, so I did a new Anmeldung.~~

✓ Moving within a city means an Ummeldung.

A move inside the same municipality is an Ummeldung: an address update, not a new registration.

✗ ~~Ich möchte mir anmelden.~~

✓ Ich möchte mich anmelden.

sich anmelden is reflexive with the Akkusativ: mich.

✗ ~~Ich bin in 1. August eingezogen.~~

✓ Ich bin am 1. August eingezogen.

Dates of a day take am: am 1. August.

09 06:00

Test yourself

Tap an answer — we will look at why together.

Finish the topic: take the full test



+7

13 questions · timed · exam style · 60% finishes the topic

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