

Welcome Hoş geldiniz
Добро пожаловать
¡Bienvenidos Bienvenue
Dobro došli Benvenuti
Bem-vindos Mirësevini
ברוכים הבאים

WELCOME TO CHEMNITZ

➔ Information for foreign nationals and migrants



Please observe all hygiene and protection regulations in force during the coronavirus pandemic.

Appointments at City of Chemnitz offices are by prior arrangement only.

In order to protect against infection, appointments must be made in advance. This keeps waiting times to a minimum.

If your request can be dealt with by telephone, letter, fax or e-mail, please use these channels first.

WELCOME



Dear readers,

A very warm welcome to Chemnitz. To the European Capital of Culture 2025, indeed. We're delighted to have you here.

By choosing Chemnitz, you are now an ambassador for the city. For me, the most important thing about Chemnitz is the people who make our city so special: the people who shape it and who shape its image to the outside world. A city with rough edges – not perfect but still a wonderful place to live.

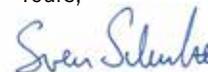
In the past, we have always evolved successfully when the city was attractive both to people and to businesses. That's why we want to do what we can to make you feel at home here. To touch on our history: Chemnitz became a major city 150 years ago. Through immigration, culture and education, and through work. Growth and prosperity were – and are – the fruits of this immigration. And this also helped Chemnitz become the modern, dynamic industrial city that it is today.

With our passion for creative endeavour and our love of building and making things, we want to come together through engagement and conversation. We want to share experiences, learn from each other, and overcome the differences that supposedly divide us.

This booklet is intended to provide support and guidance about the authorities that can help you and what you need to know in order to become a part of our city more quickly. In this booklet you will find important addresses, contact persons and information to help you find your way around your new home more quickly.

I do hope that Chemnitz becomes home for you.

Yours,


Sven Schulze
Mayor

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CHEMNITZ



smac – Museum of Archaeology



Rosenhof



Brühl Boulevard



Klaffenbach Castle



City Hall with Roland



TIETZ Cultural Centre – Petrified Forest



Lecture theatre building/
Chemnitz University of Technology



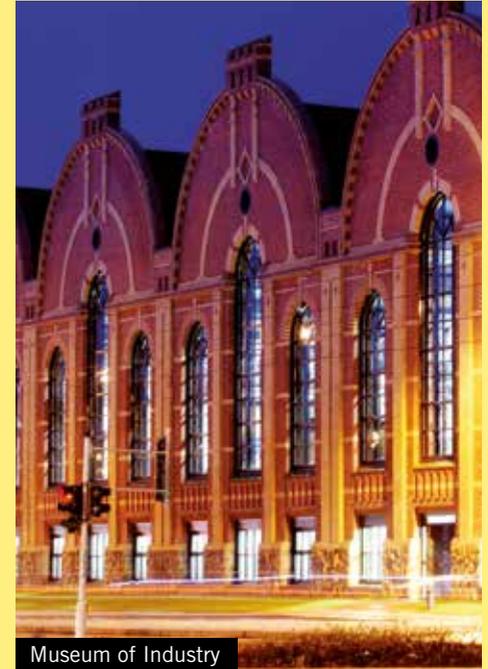
Villa Esche



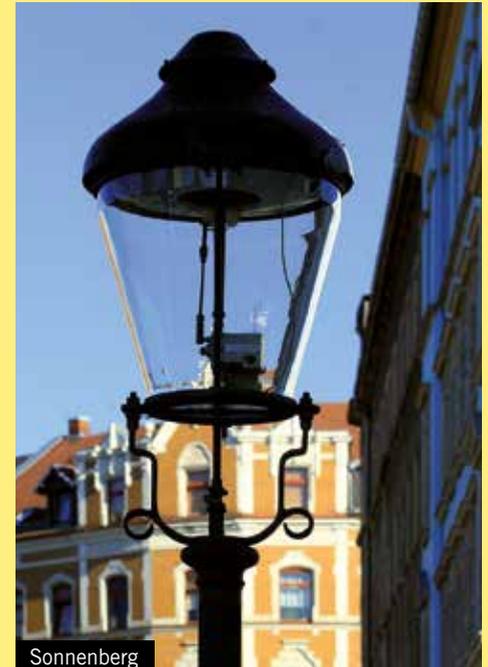
Stadthalle



Karl Marx Monument



Museum of Industry



Sonnenberg

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1. A CITY INTRODUCES ITSELF

City portrait

➤ Bound by tradition

The history of Chemnitz tells a unique story – of groundbreaking inventions in automotive engineering, mechanical engineering and the textile industry; of bold entrepreneurs such as Richard Hartmann, Carl Gottlieb Haubold and Louis Schönherr. As a modern industrial city, Chemnitz has added a new chapter to this story, and today it is one of the strongest German cities in terms of growth. The city is a technological centre specialising in the automotive and supplier industries, information technology, mechanical engineering and microsystems technology.

➤ Inventive spirit that sets a precedent

The city and its people have a recipe for success – following your own path, daring to try new things, and being a living embodiment of the spirit of invention. Chemnitz has witnessed the invention of the thermos flask principle and the first mild detergent, for example: two patented ideas amongst thousands more. Today, high-quality machinery and production systems are manufactured here and used by manufacturers around the world.

➤ Education and research that moves us forward

Chemnitz offers an excellent foundation for economic success: thanks to the intellectual hub that is the University of Technology and its Smart Systems Campus as a dynamic network of microsystems technology competencies; thanks to research facilities such as the Fraunhofer Institute; and thanks to a booming SME sector, largely comprising family-run companies.

➤ Urban planning solutions that make a name for themselves

Tradition and modernity are also reflected in architecturally exciting contrasts. Architecture lovers can delight in unique witnesses to the Bauhaus school and the New Objectivity (Neue Sachlichkeit) movement as well as the Kassberg, one of the largest districts in Europe in which examples of late-nineteenth-century architecture can still be found alongside each other. They can also enjoy Chemnitz's redesigned city centre, created over the past 20 years by internationally renowned architects such as Helmut Jahn, Hans Kollhoff and Christoph Ingenhoven.

Did you know...

... that Chemnitz is one of the 30 largest cities in Germany?

➤ Young neighbourhoods that are urban hubs

Education and science will take their place in the heart of the city with the planned city centre campus. Centrally located historic districts such as the Brühl are also thriving and establishing themselves as young urban areas with an excellent quality of life.

➤ Art and culture that are the talk of the town

For fine art enthusiasts, Chemnitz offers plenty to discover: take the Chemnitz Art Collections or the Gunzenhauser Museum, for instance, which houses one of the most impressive collections of classical modernism. Meanwhile, the Saxon Museum of Industry depicts history and the present day.

The Municipal Theatre Company with its opera, drama, ballet and puppetry performances as well as the Robert Schumann Philharmonic Orchestra attract visitors from all over Germany.

It's also well worth paying a visit to the Town Hall, which is over 100 years old: it is a chance to admire the monumental mural "Arbeit – Wohlstand – Schönheit" ("Work - Wealth - Beauty") by Max Klinger in the city councillors' hall.

Since 2013, the council chamber has been decorated with the painting "Die Abwägung" ("The Assessment") by Neo Rauch, one of the most important contemporary artists.

➤ Recreational spaces that are refreshingly diverse

Those who simply wish to relax for a while will also find what they are looking for in Chemnitz: Restful oases such as Schlossteich pond, set right by Küchwald Park, invite visitors to stroll and linger, as does the historic City Park along the River Chemnitz.

➤ Celebrities we are proud of

Many famous people were born or made their names in Chemnitz. They include: the queen of figure-skating Katarina Witt, footballer Michael Ballack, Olympic weightlifting champion Matthias Steiner, world pair-skating champions Aljona Savchenko and Robin Szolkowy, discus thrower Lars Riedel, and many more besides.

Many names in art and culture are also associated with Chemnitz: among them the writer Stefan Heym, the painter Karl Schmidt-Rottluff, Bauhaus icon Marianne Brandt and artists such as Carsten Nicolai.

Let Chemnitz surprise you as you discover the city – it's worth it!

Did you know...

... that the German Patent Law of 1877 was created under the leadership of Chemnitz mayor Wilhelm André? André wanted to protect the numerous inventions coming out of his city from copycats.

Migration Officer

The Migration Officer informs and advises foreign residents, and supports specialist departments on issues that are relevant to foreign nationals. You can contact them with your concerns and questions, particularly regarding problems specifically experienced by foreign nationals.

Special projects are designed to make integration easier for migrants, to provide guidance, and to promote tolerance and peaceful coexistence in the city over the long term. The Migration Officer initiates and prepares these kinds of projects. In doing so, they collaborate closely with private organisations and initiatives working in migration as well as with state and federal commissioners.

Stadt Chemnitz – Migrationsbeauftragte (Migration Officer)
Moritzhof, Bahnhofstraße 53
09111 Chemnitz
Phone: 0371 488-5047, -6465
Fax: 0371 488-5096
Email: migrationsbeauftragte@stadt-chemnitz.de

Migration Advisory Council

The Migration Advisory Council is a body for foreign residents of various nationalities living in the city of Chemnitz. It acts as their official representation and brings their concerns to the attention of local politics.

Since its appointment in 2002, the Council has been committed to serving the interests of residents with a migrant background, whilst also promoting tolerant coexistence among all citizens living in Chemnitz. All city projects affecting foreign residents are submitted to the Migration Advisory Council before decisions are made. A representative of the Migration Advisory Council has the right to be heard and to speak on all issues concerning foreigners.

The City of Chemnitz Migration Advisory Council consists of five members of the City Council and eight expert residents with a migrant background.

Further information about the Migration Advisory Council is available at www.chemnitz.de. You can contact the members of the Migration Advisory Council via this email address:

migrationsbeirat@stadt-chemnitz.de.

Did you know...

... that a Chemnitz Peace Prize has been awarded in Chemnitz since 2004? The award is given to people or projects that are particularly committed to the integration of different cultures, to tolerance, democracy, and peaceableness in Chemnitz.

2. REGISTRATION AND RESIDENCE



Registration formalities

If you wish to settle in Chemnitz, you must register at the

Stadt Chemnitz – Bürgeramt, Meldebehörde (Citizens' Office/Registration Office)
Bürgerhaus Am Wall
Düsseldorfer Platz 1 (2nd floor)
09111 Chemnitz

or at one of the citizen service points in the city.

You will need an appointment to register. Please make an appointment by calling the public authority hotline on 115, or going online at www.chemnitz.de.

However, you only have to register if your stay in Germany is longer than three months. To register, you must present your identity card or passport as well as your "Wohnungsgeberbestätigung" (proof of residence from a landlord or the owner of the property where you are staying). You have 14 days to register.

At the end of this booklet, you will find a checklist of further registrations that may be necessary.

Did you know...

... that Chemnitz was nicknamed "the Manchester of Saxony" from around 1860? This was due not only to the proud achievements of Chemnitz's machine factories, but also to the many chimneys, the poor air quality, and the poor living conditions of the workers.

Information on the right of residence

➤ for Union citizens and EEA State members¹

Union citizens and EEA State members only need a valid identity card or passport to enter and stay in Germany. There is no visa or residence permit requirement.

Such citizens have an unrestricted right of residence for the first three months after entry.

After that, they must meet a "condition of freedom of movement" (*Freizügigkeitsvoraussetzung*).

Those entitled to freedom of movement:

- Employed persons (self-employed or employed),
- Non-employed persons, provided they have sufficient means of subsistence and health insurance cover (e.g. students),
- Family members (including from non-EU/EEA states), or
- Those with a right of permanent residence.

It has not been necessary to have a freedom of movement certificate issued by the Immigration Authority since 2013. All you need to do is register at the Meldebehörde (registration office), unless you are only staying here as a tourist.

➤ for third-country nationals²

To reside in Germany, you must be in possession of a recognised and valid passport or alternative identity document as well as right of residence (visa, residence permit, settlement permit, EC permanent residence permit, Blue Card).

In Germany, the immigration authorities are responsible for issuing and renewing residence permits. In Chemnitz, you will find the Immigration Authority at the following address:

Stadt Chemnitz – Bürgerhaus Am Wall
Düsseldorfer Platz 1 (3rd floor)
09111 Chemnitz
Phone: 0371 488-3371
Email: auslaenderbehoerde@stadt-chemnitz.de

Application forms are available from here, or online at www.chemnitz.de. Please check opening hours and how to make an appointment.

Residence permits are issued as electronic residence permits (eAT).

They are issued in credit card format and incorporate a number of functions. Fingerprints are taken at a face-to-face appointment; a biometric passport photo and a signature are also required.

If you already have an electronic residence permit and it is still valid, you can have the address changed when you register at the registration office.

➤ Special regulations for Swiss nationals

Swiss nationals must notify the Immigration Authority within three months of entering the country. Although they enjoy essentially the same rights as Union citizens, Swiss nationals require a residence permit if staying for more than three months.

➤ Special arrangements for British nationals

For details relating to residence for British nationals, please visit <https://www.bmi.bund.de/DE/themen/verfassung/europa/brexit/brexit-node.html>.

¹ Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway ² Foreign nationals not belonging to the EU, EEA or Switzerland

Did you know...

... that Chemnitz's "Petrified Forest" deposit is absolutely unique? There are very few places in the world where trees, plants and animals can still be found in the place where they were buried by volcanic ash.

Did you know...

... that the first Saxon locomotives were built in Chemnitz? Before that, locomotives were purchased from England.

Information on the different residence permits

➤ Temporary residence permit

The “Aufenthaltserlaubnis” residence permit is always temporary. It is granted for the purposes of residence specified in the Residence Act (*Aufenthaltsgesetz*) (e.g. for family reasons; study and training; gainful employment; or reasons relating to international law, humanitarian and political reasons). The legal basis is noted in the document.

Please apply to extend your residence permit in good time (approx. six months before expiry). You do not need to submit an application in person.

The permit (when issued for the first time) should be applied for immediately after entry. If you have entered the country without a visa, please contact us by e-mail at auslaenderbehoerde@stadt-chemnitz.de for further clarification of what to do next.

➤ Settlement permit

The “Niederlassungserlaubnis” settlement permit is open-ended and requires the holder to have been legally resident for several years with an “Aufenthaltserlaubnis” or EU Blue Card, and to have integrated economically and socially. Depending on the group, it is issued according to different legal bases.

➤ Reissue of a residence permit when a passport is reissued

If you have received a new passport, a new electronic residence permit must be issued too. This requires you to come into the office for your biometric data to be taken.

Please make an appointment for this by calling 488-3410 or by emailing auslaenderbehoerde@stadt-chemnitz.de.

You must bring the following documents with you to the appointment:

- old and new passport
- a biometric photo
- previous electronic residence permit

A fee is payable for the issue of your residence permit.

Information on naturalisation (acquisition of German nationality)

➤ General

Foreign nationals are eligible for naturalisation once they have been legally ordinarily resident in Germany for at least eight years without interruption. Under certain conditions, this can be reduced to six or seven years. Special regulations apply to spouses of a German national.

The applicant for naturalisation must prove that they meet the following criteria:

1. The identity and nationality of the naturalisation applicant must be clarified.
2. The applicant must pledge allegiance to the free and democratic system anchored in the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany (*Grundgesetz für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland*) and make a declaration of loyalty.
3. Possession of a permanent right of residence, an EU Blue Card or a residence permit for purposes other than those listed in sections 16a, 16b, 16d, 16e, 16f, 17, 18d, 18f, 19, 19b, 19e, 22, 23 paragraph 1, sections 23a, 24, 25 paragraphs 3 to 5 of the Residence Act. A “probationary certificate” (*Fiktionsbescheinigung*), “Aufenthaltsgestattung” temporary residence permit or exceptional leave to stay (*Duldung*) is not accepted.
4. The applicant must be able to support themselves and their dependants without claiming benefits according to Books II and XII of the Social Code (*Sozialgesetzbuch*, SGB) (irrespective of whether these benefits have actually been claimed), unless this is due to circumstances beyond their control.
5. The applicant must renounce or surrender their previous nationality (exceptions apply to nationals of an EU member state, Switzerland or certain other states).
6. No previous convictions, with the exception of minor offences or previous convictions that have been expunged.
7. Proof of sufficient command of the German language (at least certificate B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages – CEFR), from a certified language institute (telc-GmbH, Goethe Institut or Test-DaF-Institut) or proof of language skills in the form of a diploma or certificate from a German school, university or vocational training.
8. Proof of familiarity with Germany’s legal system, society and living conditions (by passing either the naturalisation test or “Living in Germany”, or by completing a secondary school qualification or a comparable or more advanced qualification from a German school of general education, particularly a Realschule or Gymnasium).
9. The applicant must integrate into German society, and there must be no polygamous marriages.

Naturalisation is excluded in the cases outlined in Section 11 of the Nationality Act (*Staatsangehörigkeitsgesetz*).

Did you know...

... that Chemnitz has an open-air theatre? Performances and various events are held at the KÜCHWALDBÜHNE (Küchwald Forest Theatre) from May to November.

Did you know...

... that you can do 80 different sports in Chemnitz? There is all sorts on offer, from American football to water polo. The sports clubs are listed at: <https://www.sportbund-chemnitz.de/vereinsdatenbank/>.

Naturalisation applicants must have their main residence in Chemnitz. A formal, written application must be submitted. Young people aged 16 and over can apply themselves. Civil status must generally be proven through civil status certificates. Foreign documents must be translated by a publicly appointed and sworn interpreter.

Due to the complexity of the legal situation, a personal or telephone consultation with the nationality authority (“Staatsangehörigkeitsbehörde”) is always required before submitting an application. During this meeting, the officer will explain which documents are required in each individual case, what the naturalisation fees are, and which possible exemptions from naturalisation requirements may apply.

Staatsangehörigkeitsbehörde der Stadt Chemnitz (City of Chemnitz Nationality Authority)
Bürgerhaus Am Wall
Düsseldorfer Platz 1
09111 Chemnitz
Phone: 0371 488-3430 or -3431
Email: staatsangehoerigkeitsbehoerde@stadt-chemnitz.de

➤ Co-naturalisation

Spouses and children under the age of 16 are also eligible for naturalisation under the above-mentioned conditions. The spouse must have been legally ordinarily resident in Germany for at least four years, and have been married or in a registered partnership for at least two years. Children are eligible under shorter time frames.

➤ Foreign spouses of German nationals

Spouses of German nationals are eligible for naturalisation. They must have been legally and ordinarily resident in the country for at least three years. The partners must have been married or in a registered partnership for two years, and the spouse must have been a German national for at least two years.

PLEASE NOTE

Under certain conditions, children may also be granted German nationality when born in Germany.

All children born to foreign parents in the Federal Republic of Germany after 01.01.2000 are automatically German nationals if, at the time of birth, the father or mother of the child

- a) has been legally and ordinarily resident in Germany for at least eight years without interruption, and
- b) has a permanent right of residence under the Residence Act, the Freedom of Movement Act/EU or a residence permit under the Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Swiss Confederation, of the other, on the free movement of persons.

The registry office in Chemnitz (“Standesamt”) will check whether these requirements have been met when registering your child. If so, the child is a German national and the registry office will issue documentation to that effect.

At the same time, the child may also obtain the nationality of its parents. Under certain conditions, upon reaching the age of 21, the child must then choose whether they wish to retain German or foreign nationality (“Optionspflicht”).

Did you know...

... that you can print out an “emergency card” on the City of Chemnitz homepage?
In some situations – for example, if you have an emergency on the street and are unable to provide sufficient information about yourself – it is helpful to have the most important information with you so that others can act on your behalf. >> www.chemnitz.de/chemnitz/de/aktuell/notdienste/index

Did you know...

... that the Karl Marx Monument in Chemnitz city centre is the world’s second-largest portrait bust after Lenin’s head?

3. LIVING

Housing search and housing agencies

Chemnitz offers a suitable living environment for every taste, whether that's in the countryside or in the centre of Chemnitz. The 39 districts have one particular thing in common: the people of Chemnitz live in a family-friendly environment, where shops, schools and childcare facilities are only a short distance away.

You can look for a flat, for example, in the newspaper, online or directly from landlords. If you need help finding accommodation, the City of Chemnitz Social Welfare Office ("Sozialamt") can offer support:

Stadt Chemnitz – Sozialamt (Social Welfare Office)
Abteilung Migration, Integration, Wohnen (Department of Migration, Integration and Housing)
Neubau an der Alten Post, Bahnhofstraße 54 a
09111 Chemnitz
Phone: 0371 488-5035
Email: sozialamt.unterbringung@stadt-chemnitz.de

Rent and cost of accommodation

The rent of a flat usually consists of a basic rent and "cold" and "warm" operating costs. "Cold" operating costs relate to cold water, caretaker services, lift, chimney sweep, among other things. These costs are divided among all tenants of the property. You pay "warm" operating costs for heating and hot water, as well as a number of other services. All operating costs are usually paid per month in advance, and a statement is issued once a year.

In Germany, there are regulations on noise levels in rented flats. Noise from your apartment should hardly be audible outside. "Night-time quiet" ("Nachtruhe") is to be observed between 22.00 and 06.00, preventing tenants from causing a disturbance to others. If you are bothered by noise from other flatmates, you can contact your landlord in the first instance.

You can apply for housing benefit for your apartment. Your income situation will be examined to determine whether you are eligible. If you have any questions about housing benefit or would like to submit an application, please contact

Stadt Chemnitz – Sozialamt (Social Welfare Office)
Kundenportal Soziale Leistungen (Customer social benefits portal)
Moritzhof (ground floor)
Bahnhofstraße 53
09111 Chemnitz
Email: soziale.leistungen@stadt-chemnitz.de

Information is also available at www.chemnitz.de.

Did you know...

... that Chemnitz is Saxony's third-largest city?

Did you know...

... that Chemnitz is "filthy" rich? After the volcanic eruption 290 million years ago (in today's Zeisigwald), many of the buried trees petrified. You can visit part of it at the TIETZ Cultural Centre or at the excavation site in Sonnenberg.

4. LANGUAGE SUPPORT

Language support for children and young people

Newly arrived children and young people aged 6 to 18 attend school-based preparatory classes or preparatory classes that encompass some vocational aspects. Find out more about this in Chapter 6 under the section “Integration of children with a migrant background”.

Furthermore, unaccompanied refugee children (i.e. children and young people under the age of 18 who enter Germany alone and without a legal guardian accompanying them) are given help finding their feet in a country that is foreign to them. This mainly includes teaching the young people German, as well as providing them with social/educational support.

Support is provided via

AGIUA Migrationssozial- und Jugendarbeit e. V. (AGIUA Migration Social and Youth Work)
Müllerstraße 12
09113 Chemnitz
Email: umf@agiua.de

Language support for adults

➤ Integration language courses

The integration courses are intended for all new immigrants who are eligible for the service or for whom a course is mandatory, who live permanently in Germany and speak little or no German. Attending a course may also be mandatory for foreign nationals who have been living in Germany for a long time.

If you are eligible or obliged to participate, you will receive a corresponding certificate from the Immigration Authority, the Social Welfare Office or the Job Centre, as well as an up-to-date list of course providers in Chemnitz.

The general integration course consists of a language course (600 teaching hours) and an orientation course (100 teaching hours).

In the language course you will learn the vocabulary you need to speak and write in everyday life.

The orientation course informs you about life in Germany, and provides information about the legal system, the culture and recent history.

Full-time and part-time courses are available. At the end of an integration course there is a final examination, which consists of a language test and the “Living in Germany” test. If you pass both exams, you will receive the “Integration Course Certificate” (“Zertifikat Integrationskurs”).

This knowledge is necessary, among other things, if you wish to obtain a permanent right of residence in Germany. If you intend to become naturalised, you may then be able to do so earlier. In addition, the German language skills you obtain will boost your prospects on the job market.

Integration courses are financially supported by the state. The Residence Act stipulates different regulations for participation and costs. Please visit the Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF: Federal Office for Migration and Refugees) for information on whether you are eligible to take part in an integration course, what you have to pay, and how to get onto a course:

Otto-Schmerbach-Straße 20
09117 Chemnitz
Phone: 0911 943-72799
Fax: 0911 943-99699
Email: che-integrationsbearbeitung@bamf.bund.de

Further information is also available at www.bamf.de.

➤ German for the workplace

In order to find work and be successful in professional life, good German language skills are important. There are therefore special courses where you can learn job-related German.

Vocational German Language Support (DeuFöV) is implemented by BAMF and builds directly on the integration courses. Integration courses teach immigrants everyday German. In the subsequent job-related language modules and further qualification modules, job-seeking migrants and refugees are given ongoing support preparing for the employment market. For more information on participant access requirements, please contact BAMF or go to:

www.bamf.de/DE/Willkommen/DeutschLernen/DeutschBeruf/Bundesprogramm-45a/bundesprogramm-45a-node.html

Did you know...

... that the Federal Republic of Germany has had a law on the recognition of qualifications obtained abroad since 1 April 2012?

Did you know...

... that the Robert Schumann Philharmonic Orchestra doesn't perform exclusively at the Opera House or the Stadthalle? Several times a year, concerts take place in some very unusual locations: outdoors on Theaterplatz, for example, or on the lawn by the Schlosskirche; at “pumpwerk eins” or in the State Museum of Archaeology.

BAMF offers the course “German for the workplace” (“Deutsch für den Beruf”) free of charge for people with a migrant background. The courses combine German lessons, vocational qualification and the opportunity to learn more about a particular profession through an internship.

In addition to the courses funded by BAMF, there are also other German courses for the workplace, for which a participation fee is often required. It is worth comparing these closely, because the content of the courses often varies greatly. Always choose the course that best suits your needs.

Find out more about this at www.bamf.de.

➤ Other options for language support

There are currently a number of German courses funded through the **Saxony state language** support programme as part of the Integrative Measures initiative. These include literacy courses, “Deutsch sofort” (“German Now”) and “Deutsch qualifiziert” (“Qualified in German”). There are various German course providers in Chemnitz who offer such courses. Information can be obtained from the Social Welfare Office and the “KURSNET” section of the Federal Employment Agency site.

<http://kursnet-finden.arbeitsagentur.de/kurs/>

Some associations offer **voluntary German courses**; these mainly teach the basics of the German language and are free of charge. Some courses are designed specifically for women. In these German courses, childcare is offered during classes. Up-to-date information about this is available from the Migration Officer or the Social Welfare Office.

Did you know...

... that in the 18th century, foreign merchants were responsible for turning Chemnitz into the heart of the textile industry? They supplied low-priced cotton and bought semi-finished and finished products. The Schlossberg Museum displays six portraits of Macedonians.

5. TRAINING AND WORK

Recognition of foreign professional qualifications

If you have completed a school or university education in your home country, this is a great advantage when starting a career in Germany.

Professional recognition is when your professional qualification from abroad is checked to confirm whether it is equivalent to a German qualification. In a procedure regulated by law, your training is assessed for equivalence with corresponding German training, and a decision is taken as to whether professional recognition can be granted.

Professional recognition is helpful in many professions. In some professions, it may even be required for practising in Germany. However, this depends on the profession:

In **regulated professions**, your professional qualifications must be recognised in order to practise the profession or use your professional title. Without recognition, you are not permitted to work in these professions in Germany with a professional qualification acquired abroad. Regulated professions in Germany include, for example, doctor, nurse, lawyer, teacher, educator and engineer.

A database of all occupations currently regulated in Germany can be found at www.berufenet.arbeitsagentur.de/berufe.

In **non-regulated professions**, you do not need professional recognition to pursue your profession. You may submit applications and work in the employment market directly. However, getting your degree assessed may still be helpful in making your foreign qualification more understandable to employers and companies. In addition, a qualification recognised as equivalent opens up access to further vocational training. In Germany, all vocational careers, i.e. occupations that can be trained for in Germany's dual vocational training and education system, are non-regulated. You can find a list of all these professions in Germany here: www.bibb.de

Find out whether you need professional recognition if you want to work in your profession at www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de.

Did you know...

... that head forester Ernst Georg August Baumgarten, from Grüna, invented the first steerable airship in the 19th century, even before Count von Zeppelin? The first successful launch took place on 30 July 1879 in Grüna.

Vocational training and job placement

The youth employment agency “Haus der Jugend” offers vocational guidance. You and your child can make an individual appointment (by phone, in person or by video) to discuss all options for school-leavers. Contact details can be found in the section “Pathways after school” on page 30.

You can get support in finding a training place or a job from the

Agentur für Arbeit (Employment Agency)
Heinrich-Lorenz-Straße 20
09120 Chemnitz

The Employment Agency is responsible in particular for vocational guidance as well as for job and training placement and employment promotion.

It arranges for the payment of financial benefits such as unemployment benefit, vocational training allowance and rehabilitation benefits.

Employment promotion benefits consist, for example, of continuing vocational training, paying subsidies for wage and integration costs or for business start-ups, employment and vocational promotion for disabled people, or so-called job creation measures.

Vocational training for disadvantaged young people (e.g. off-the-job training) can be funded as vocational training or as “ausbildungsbegleitende Hilfe” assistance to support training.

The Employment Agency’s Family Benefits offices pay child benefit (“Kindergeld”) and child allowance (“Kinderzuschlag”) upon application. For more information, please visit: www.arbeitsagentur.de.

Your rights as an employee

➤ Work permit

Whether you can pursue employment depends on your nationality and residence status. Please visit the Immigration Authority or the Employment Agency for more information.

➤ Employment contract

In principle, an employment contract is required for employment. It is always advisable to get a **written** employment contract!

➤ Wages

Wages are documented on a payslip. This details gross and net wage, as well as all allowances and deductions. Wage supplements may include child benefit, for example. Deductions are made for unemployment insurance, pension insurance and health insurance. Your wage is taxed.

Did you know...

... that the Kassberg has a “basement” ? Over the centuries, since 1531, 4 km of corridors and cellars have been cut into the steep slope on the Chemnitz River to store beer, wine, vegetables, as well as materials for factories. During the Second World War, people were able to shelter from the bombs there. Part of these vaulted passages can once again be visited today.

➤ Working time

In most German companies, people work 40 hours a week. The number of working hours depends on the employer, the tasks performed, and the industry. Working hours are specified in the employment contract.

➤ Holiday entitlement

According to the Federal Holiday Act, employees are entitled to at least 24 working days of paid holiday per calendar year (6-day week). If a 5-day week has been agreed with the employee, the statutory minimum leave entitlement is 20 working days. It is mandatory to take the statutory minimum leave entitlement. More can of course be agreed with the employee at any time.

➤ Probationary period and termination

An employment contract is usually preceded by a probationary period. This can be agreed in the form of a fixed-term probationary employment contract. The employment contract automatically ends at the end of the probationary period. The fixed-term probationary contract becomes an open-ended employment relationship if there has been an agreement to continue the employment relationship once the probationary period is over, or if the employment relationship is tacitly continued by mutual consent. Fixed-term employment contracts must be agreed in writing.

Open-ended employment contracts may include a probationary period of no more than six months. Within this period, the employment relationship may be terminated with two weeks’ notice.

The notice period is generally determined by the employment contract. Employers may not dismiss workers if the workers are in any of the following circumstances: illness or accident, pregnancy, maternity leave, parental leave.

Notice of termination must be given in writing to the other contracting party. Employees are entitled to a reference (written appraisal).

➤ What should you do if you are unemployed?

The job-seeker or unemployed person should register with the Employment Agency as soon as possible after becoming aware of potential unemployment. You must prove that you meet the criteria for receiving unemployment benefit.

Did you know...

... that Chemnitz was renamed Karl-Marx-Stadt from 1953 to 1990?

Business start-up and self-employment

Would you like to become self-employed? You must prepare well for starting a business.

There is an extensive network of advice centres available in Chemnitz for guidance on starting a business; these are free of charge and free of red tape. As a self-employed person, you must take out voluntary insurance (health insurance) and transfer your taxes to the responsible tax office in Chemnitz. It is possible to take out voluntary unemployment insurance. Self-employed persons or freelancers are urged to make provisions with a private vocational disability pension. In order to provide for your old age, it is advisable to take out a private pension scheme.

Contacts for your path to self-employment may include:

Handwerkskammer Chemnitz (Chamber of Crafts)
Limbacher Straße 195
09116 Chemnitz
www.hwk-chemnitz.de

Industrie- und Handelskammer Chemnitz (Chamber of Industry and Commerce)
Straße der Nationen
09111 Chemnitz
www.chemnitz.ihk24.de

Agentur für Arbeit (Employer Service)
Heinrich-Lorenz-Straße 20
09120 Chemnitz
Phone: 0800 4555520
Email: chemnitz.arbeitgeber@arbeitsagentur.de

Netzwerk Integration durch Qualifizierung (Network Integration through Qualification)
www.netzwerk-iq.de

NOTE

Please note that your residence permit must allow you to become self-employed. If you have any questions about this, please contact the Immigration Authority.

Did you know...

... that there are 172 childcare day facilities and 73 day nurseries in Chemnitz?

6. FAMILY AND EDUCATION

Childcare day facilities

Children in Chemnitz can attend a childcare day facility (Kita). Municipal crèches, kindergartens, childminders and after-school care facilities are all available, as well as independent and private providers. Childcare can start for infants aged nine weeks or more, and ends when they reach the end of after-school care age. For pre-schoolers, there are crèche, daycare or kindergarten options available, offering a maximum of 11 hours of care per day. After-school care facilities can look after children for up to 6 hours a day.

Parents are asked to contribute to the costs of a place in daycare. These contributions may be partially or fully waived, depending on the family's respective income situation. Advice on how to apply for a place at a municipal facility and information on how applications are processed are available from:

Stadt Chemnitz – Amt für Jugend und Familie (Office for Youth and Family)
Abteilung Kindertageseinrichtungen, Tagespflege
(Department of Child Daycare Facilities, Daycare)
Moritzhof
Bahnhofstraße 53
09111 Chemnitz

You can find the registration details, forms and further information under the “Kita Portal” section of the City of Chemnitz website www.chemnitz.de/kinderbetreuung.

Of course, children can also be registered at childcare day facilities run by independent providers. To register, change your registration or de-register for a place at an independent provider, please visit the daycare centre itself or go to the portal www.chemnitz.de/kinderbetreuung.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please register your child early for a place at a childcare day facility. Your child will receive much better support in the German language and thus be better prepared for school.

Please contact one of the migration advice centres at any time if you have problems with your kindergarten place.

Did you know...

... that multilingual children have the right to expect their school to recognise this linguistic potential as a talent and therefore to foster it to the best of their ability? This means, for example, offering lessons in the language of origin (up to 12 languages).

Starting school

In Saxony, attending school is compulsory for all children and young people who live, or whose ordinary place of residence or work or education is in Saxony.

➤ Registration

All children who reach the age of six by 30 June of the respective year must be registered at a municipal primary school in the relevant school district. Children who reach the age of six between 1 July and 30 September can be registered. In this case, you must submit a written application for early school admission to the headteacher of the primary school in question.

The City of Chemnitz announces the place and time for school registration in the usual manner in May of each year (e.g. official gazette, notices in daycare centres). School registration takes place on two days in the period from 1 August to 15 September in the year before your child's first day at school.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The signature of both parents is required for registration. Single parents must submit their custody certificate.

Parents who wish to enrol their child in an independent primary school should register their child at the desired facility. A municipal primary school in the relevant school district must be notified of this in writing by 15 September of the year preceding enrolment.

If your child wishes to enrol outside of your school district, after first registering with a primary school in your school district, you must submit a well-founded, informal application for exemption to the desired primary school by 15 February of the year of enrolment at the latest.

➤ Integration of children with a migrant background

In order to enable children with a migrant background (children whose language of origin is not German, or not exclusively German) to integrate as quickly as possible into Saxon schools, a statutory regulation has been in force since the early 1990s. The Concept for the Integration of Migrants in the Free State of Saxony is embedded in Saxony's curricula for preparatory groups/preparatory classes and preparatory classes at vocational schools **“German as a Second Language”** (DaZ: “Deutsch als Zweitsprache”).

For children with a migrant background enrolled at general and vocational schools in the Free State of Saxony, school integration is pursued in three stages:

1. Lessons in preparatory classes (at selected primary and secondary schools, grammar schools and vocational schools),
2. Lessons in preparatory classes as well as partial integration in mainstream classes (at selected primary and secondary schools as well as grammar schools), and
3. Additional support in mainstream classes in all schools, particularly in the German language.

If necessary, please ask at your kindergarten or school if they offer support options for your child. Many schools also offer lessons in the language of origin, homework help, and other services.

An information pack for parents containing essential information on school attendance can be downloaded here in various languages:

https://www.agiua.de/projekt_lesezeichen.php?M=3

You can apply for appropriate support to cover any special costs associated with school attendance (for example, transport, class trips, etc.) This is designed to take into account the special needs of children. Please contact your child's school if you have any questions.

The Coordinator for Migration at your local office of the Saxon State Office for Schools and Education is responsible for registering children whose language of origin is not German, or not exclusively German, in the current school year.

Further information can be obtained from the Saxon State Office for Schools and Education).

Sächsisches Landesamt für Schule und Bildung
Annaberger Straße 119
09120 Chemnitz
Email: poststelle@lasub.smk.sachsen.de
www.lasub.smk.sachsen.de

Did you know...

... that the City Library has about 17,000 media in 35 languages (books, CDs, DVDs, newspapers, language learning games), including for German as a foreign language? Every Tuesday, from 13.00 to 15.00, mentors help students with their German language learning and homework for DaF (German as a Foreign Language) courses.

Did you know...

... that TU Chemnitz offers children's lectures for children aged between 7 and 12? There is no admission charge for these lectures. Registration is not required.

Pathways after school

After finishing school, your children can start a company or school-based vocational training programme, a public service apprenticeship, a course at an institute of higher education, or a "gap year" (for example, to do a Voluntary Social Service Year or Federal Volunteer Service). In Germany, the dual-track vocational education and training programme (VET) is the most widely used. This combines school-based education with practical training.

Applications for a place are submitted up to one year before the start of the programme. You can apply directly to a company offering training or get support from the career guidance service at the Youth Employment Agency. You and your child can make an individual appointment (by phone, in person or by video) to discuss all options for school-leavers.

Contact:

Jugendberufsagentur "Haus der Jugend"

Heinrich-Lorenz-Straße 20

09120 Chemnitz

Phone: 0800 4555500 (Monday to Friday from 08.00 to 18.00)

Email: chemnitz.berufsberatung@arbeitsagentur.de

Contact form: www.arbeitsagentur.de/bildung "Kontaktiere uns direkt"

More information is also available at: www.hausderjugend-chemnitz.de



Educational opportunities for adults

Adults can also continue their education, thus significantly improving their prospects on the job market. The following options are available:

➤ Evening school

You can also obtain a secondary school certificate ("Hauptschulabschluss or Realschulabschluss") at evening school ("Abendoberschule"). To do this, you must have completed compulsory schooling (nine years) and compulsory vocational schooling (three years), be generally employed, or have been employed for at least six months. You must also be at least 18 years old.

Furthermore, you must not already hold the qualification you are seeking or an equivalent qualification, and you must not have failed the examination for the qualification you are seeking twice.

Information on the "Abendoberschule", the application documents required, deadlines and contact options can be found at www.abendoberschule-chemnitz.de.

➤ Evening secondary school

You can also obtain the general higher education entrance qualification at Chemnitz's "Abendgymnasium" (evening secondary school). For this, you must have a "Realschule" certificate. You must be at least 18 years old, have completed vocational training, or have been in work for at least two years. There are many other ways to access the "Abendgymnasium", such as a volunteer service year of any kind, military service, caring for dependants, running a household, or even unemployment.

Information on the "Abendgymnasium", the application documents required, deadlines and contact options can be found at www.abendgymnasium-chemnitz.de.

Adult education is free of charge and teaching materials are supplied.

Higher education in Chemnitz

There are currently around 10,000 students at Chemnitz University of Technology (TU Chemnitz), studying in eight faculties and at the Centre for Teacher Training. 100 degree programmes are offered (bachelor's, master's and "Diplom"), as well as the state examination in teaching. If you intend to study at TU Chemnitz, please visit the Central Student Advisory Service for comprehensive information.

TU Chemnitz, Zentrale Studienberatung

Straße der Nationen 62

09111 Chemnitz

Phone: 0371 531-55555

Email: studienberatung@tu-chemnitz.de

The International University Centre (IUZ) is the central contact point for all international students, doctoral candidates as well as refugees before, during and after their studies at TU Chemnitz. It is supported by student initiatives and projects, such as the mentoring programme or the PhD assistance service.

If you have any questions, please contact the IUZ staff at any time.

TU Chemnitz

Internationales Universitätszentrum

Bahnhofstraße 8

09111 Chemnitz

Phone: 0371 531-13500

Email: iuz@tu-chemnitz.de

Did you know...

... that in terms of the proportion of foreign students, TU Chemnitz ranks among the top public universities in the country?

Did you know...

... that there are currently 92 public playgrounds and leisure facilities for children and young people in Chemnitz?

7. SOCIAL SECURITY

Basic benefits for job-seekers

If necessary, you can receive basic benefits for job-seekers at the Job Centre.

Job centres are regional facilities through which the Employment Agency and the local authorities arrange basic benefits (unemployment benefit II). Case managers at the Job Centre look after and advise job-seeking recipients of unemployment benefit II. They support them in their search for a job. The job centres also have at their disposal the employment promotion grants provided by the employment agencies. The goal is for the person to be able to earn a living on their own in the future.

For more information, please visit www.jobcenter-ge.de.

Social benefits and assistance

Other social benefits, such as benefits in old age or disability benefits, as well as benefits for children and young people (including benefits from the “education and participation package” (“Bildungs- und Teilhabepaket”), federal parental allowance (“Bundeselterngeld”) and state child-raising allowance (“Landeserziehungsgeld”)) and the ChemnitzPass concessionary card can be obtained from the Social Welfare Office depending on your personal situation.

For more information, please visit www.chemnitz.de/soziales.

Benefits for asylum seekers and special benefits for children and young people

You can apply for benefits under the Asylum Seekers’ Benefits Act (*Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz*) if you have one of the following residence permits:

- “Aufenthaltsgestattung” (temporary resident permit)
- “Duldung” (exceptional leave to stay),
- “Aufenthaltstitel” (residence permit)
 - pursuant to section 23 (1) or section 24, section 25 paragraph 4, first sentence, Residence Act (AufenthG) or
 - pursuant to section 25 AufenthG, provided that the decision on the suspension of deportation was made no earlier than 18 months prior
- or you are required to leave the country.

Did you know...

... that Chemnitz is also known as the “gateway to the Erzgebirge”?

The benefits include money for food, clothing, housing and heating. Furthermore, you will receive pocket money for your personal daily needs.

The Social Welfare Office also covers benefits in the event of illness.

For children and young people, you can apply for special benefits e.g. for school trips, food allowance at school and kindergarten, and school materials.

You can apply for these benefits at

Stadt Chemnitz – Sozialamt (Social Welfare Office)
Abt. Migration, Integration und Wohnen (Dept. Migration, Integration and Housing)
Neubau an der Alten Post, Bahnhofstraße 54 a
09111 Chemnitz
Phone: 0371 488-5518
Email: sozialamt.asylblg@stadt-chemnitz.de

Application forms and information sheets can be found at the City of Chemnitz service portal at www.chemnitz.de/dienstleistungsportal/.

ChemnitzPass

If you receive benefits from the Job Centre or are entitled to benefits under the Asylum Seekers’ Benefits Act, you can apply for the ChemnitzPass for yourself and your children at the Social Welfare Office. This means you pay less at various museums, cultural, sports and leisure facilities.

You can obtain the ChemnitzPass and an overview of all reductions at the

Stadt Chemnitz – Sozialamt (Social Welfare Office)
Kundenportal Soziale Leistungen (Customer social benefits portal)
Moritzhof
Bahnhofstraße 53
09111 Chemnitz
Email: soziale.leistungen@stadt-chemnitz.de

Please submit your benefit statement from the Job Centre or Social Welfare Office and a photo for each child. Adults do not need a photo.

Did you know...

... that the German Road Cycling Championships were held in Chemnitz in June 2017? Competitions took place over three days. 25,000 spectators cheered on the 420 athletes who had set off. The men’s winner was Marcus Burghardt from Zschopau.

8. CHEMNITZ INTERCULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Advisory services

Approx. 21,800 foreign nationals currently live in the city of Chemnitz (as of 30.04.2021). That is around 9% of the city's inhabitants. There is a wide range of special advice and social facilities that support migrants as they integrate into our city.

In addition, a number of organisations set up by migrants themselves, associations and religious communities have been formed, which also promote the integration of migrant groups living in Chemnitz. They also offer a space and an opportunity for migrants to cultivate their native culture, language and religion, and pass them on to the next generation.

Counselling, guidance and referral for further services offering assistance and specific advice are provided by

Stadt Chemnitz – Sozialamt (Social Welfare Office)
Abt. Migration, Integration, Wohnen (Dept. Migration, Integration and Housing)
Neubau an der Alten Post, Bahnhofstraße 54 a (2nd floor)
09111 Chemnitz
Phone: 0371 488-5059
Fax: 0371 488-5592
Email: sozialamt.migrationsberatung@stadt-chemnitz.de

For support with initial integration, please visit the Migration Advice Service for Adult Immigrants (MBE) provided by

AWO Soziale Dienste Chemnitz und Umgebung gGmbH
Migrationsberatung für erwachsene Zuwanderer (MBE)
Wiesenstraße 10
09111 Chemnitz
Phone: 0371 67426-16
Fax: 0371 67426-25
Email: mbe@awo-chemnitz.de

and by

Caritasverband für Chemnitz u. Umgebung e. V.
Migrationsberatungsstelle für erwachsene Zuwanderer (MBE)
Ludwig-Kirsch-Straße 15
09130 Chemnitz
Phone: 0371 43208-34, -33
Fax: 0371 43208-14
Email: migration-mbe@caritas-chemnitz.de

Young people with a migrant background are supported with integration by the

AWO Soziale Dienste Chemnitz und Umgebung gGmbH
Jugendmigrationsdienst (Youth Migration Service, JMD)
Wiesenstraße 10
09111 Chemnitz
Phone: 0371 67426-12, -11, -13
Email: jmd@awo-chemnitz.de

Voluntary return to the country of origin is supported by the “Rückkehrberatungsstelle” (Return Counselling Centre)

DRK Kreisverband Chemnitzer Umland e. V.
Rückkehrberatung
Zwickauer Straße 432
09117 Chemnitz
Phone: 0371 84208-13 or 0176 43291680 or 0176 43295568
Email: freiwillige-ausreise@drk-chemnitzer-umland.de or
c-freiwillige-ausreise@drk-chemnitzer-umland.de

For more information on which advice centre or intercultural facility offers a suitable service for you, or about migrant-run organisations, please contact

Stadt Chemnitz – Migrationsbeauftragte (Migration Officer)
Moritzhof, Bahnhofstraße 53
09111 Chemnitz
Phone: 0371 488-5047, -6465
Fax: 0371 488-5096
Email: migrationsbeauftragte@stadt-chemnitz.de

Did you know...

... that there has been an integration network in Chemnitz (a municipal network for immigrant integration) and a Migration Advisory Council (see page 10) since 2002?

Did you know...

... that people from over 130 countries live in Chemnitz?

Intercultural events

Numerous intercultural events are held in the city of Chemnitz throughout the year.

➤ Jewish Culture Days Chemnitz

The Jewish Culture Days have been held annually in Chemnitz in February/March since 1991. Visitors can enjoy a sophisticated artistic programme featuring Yiddish songs, music, dance and much more.

➤ Europe Week

To celebrate the annual nationwide Europe Week in May, a variety of events is also hosted in Chemnitz. The week-long series of events concludes with the European Neighbours' Day. Guests from European countries, including Poland and the Czech Republic, are also invited.

➤ World Refugee Day

World Refugee Day was established by the United Nations and has taken place every 20 June since 2001. To mark World Refugee Day, actions of solidarity take place in numerous German cities, including Chemnitz. The city's broad network of action groups sends a message of tolerance and cosmopolitanism in Chemnitz.

➤ Intercultural Weeks

In 1975, on the churches' initiative, a "Sunday for Foreign Nationals" was launched for the first time. Shortly afterwards, a preparatory committee consisting of churches, trade unions and migrant officers called for the first "Week of the Foreign Fellow Citizens".

The week itself quickly found favour in many towns and communities, but the name was less popular. In 1991, the event was renamed "Intercultural Week", and was also celebrated for the first time in the new federal states – in cities and municipalities with a much lower proportion of foreign inhabitants, but where wariness and fear of foreigners was still quite high.

Chemnitz, as Saxony's third-largest city, has followed the call of the preparatory committee every year since 1991. Now a two-week series of events here, the celebration kicks off every September to great ceremony.

The programme is published in a booklet and can also be accessed online at www.chemnitz.de.

➤ Meet New Friends

This event held at smac – the State Museum of Archaeology Chemnitz – has been taking place since 2016. Almost like a job fair, visitors can meet new contacts and arrange to attend numerous activities offered by various Chemnitz clubs and institutions. Volunteers also have the opportunity to showcase their leisure activities and invite interested people to join their meetings, be it for a sewing group or a sports training session.

➤ Intercultural Film Week

Following the Intercultural Weeks, an Intercultural Film Week has been held in the city of Chemnitz since 2013.

With its wide range of different genres, Intercultural Film Week offers an excellent opportunity to learn about topics such as migration, integration, other ways of life, everyday racism, racism, xenophobia, and right-wing extremism in a vivid and interesting way. Visitors can delve deeply into each topic and discuss different perspectives.

➤ Intercultural Christmas Festival

Since 2014, Chemnitz has hosted an intercultural Christmas festival. The programme includes Christmas music and stories from all over the world, typical delicacies (not only from the local Erzgebirge mountains) and various handicrafts. Well-known Christmas characters such as Grandfather Frost and Snegurutschka (Snowflake) from Russia, Zwarter Piet from the Low Countries, the Italian witch Befana, Swedish Lucia, Queen of Light, and, of course, Father Christmas hand out small Christmas presents to the children.

Numerous other nationality-specific events also take place in Chemnitz, such as the Vietnamese New Year festival "Tet" and the Vietnamese family festival with lantern procession "Trung Thu", as well as the popular Hungarian cultural evening.

Did you know...

... that there is an extinct volcano in Chemnitz? When the Beutenberg erupted in the Zeisigwald 290 million years ago, plants and animals across the entire city area were covered with a metre-high layer of ash, thus partly preserving them to the present day.

Did you know...

... that there are 20 public museums in Chemnitz? There is so much to explore, from Rabenstein Castle to the moated castle of Klaffenbach.

9. INTERRELIGIOUS CHEMNITZ

Germany has freedom of religion.

Thus, many different faiths have established themselves in our country. Christians form the largest group. The largest sub-group of these is the Catholic Christians, comprising around 27% of the German population. Approx. 24% of inhabitants are Protestants. About 6% of all inhabitants belong to Islam, and there are just under 100,000 practising Jewish people living in Germany. (as of 2020)

Many religious communities in Chemnitz are committed to the integration of immigrants.

Christian communities in Chemnitz

There are a large number of Christian congregations in Chemnitz.

The Evangelical Lutheran Christians form the largest denomination. You will also find Protestant churches in all parts of the city. An overview can be found at www.kirchenbezirk-chemnitz.de. The contact partner is

Evangelisch-Lutherischer Kirchenbezirk Chemnitz (Chemnitz Evangelical Lutheran Church District)
Theaterstraße 25
09111 Chemnitz
Phone: 0371 400 5621

Koordination für kirchliche Flüchtlingsarbeit (Coordination for church refugee work):
Rembrandtstraße 13 b
09111 Chemnitz
Phone: 0371 60 04 815

Catholic Christians are the second-largest group of believers in Chemnitz. You can find out about Catholic communities in Chemnitz from the Propstei St. Johannes Nepomuk, Hohe Straße 1 in 09111 Chemnitz.

The following congregations in Chemnitz cater in particular for people with a migrant background:

Russian Orthodox Community Mariä Geburt	Hohe Straße 1 09112 Chemnitz www.russische-kirche-c.de
Romanian Orthodox Congregation of St Vitus and St Stefan	Zwickauer Straße 315 09116 Chemnitz http://parohia-chemnitz.de
Evangelische Internationale Gemeinde (Evangelical International Congregation)	Theaterstraße 76 09111 Chemnitz www.eigchemnitz.com
Chemnitz Chinese Evangelical Congregation	Gemeindezentrum Vettersstraße 23 09126 Chemnitz Mobile: 0176 41670421 http://cceg-chemnitz.de
Egyptian Coptic Christians	Christians attend the services in Dresden and Leipzig: www.koptische-gemeinde.de/index.html . The community also offers joint activities via Skype. Contact partner in Chemnitz: Dr. Sh. Abdel-Malek Phone: 0371 5610939 Email: sh.malek@gmx.de
Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo Church	Services at the Lutherkirche Zschopauer Straße 151, 09126 Chemnitz Contact person for Tigrinya-speaking Orthodox Christians: Robel Gebrab Phone/WhatsApp/Telegram: 01521 9451817 Contact person for German: Irina Clement Phone: 0371 5610939 Mobile: 0151 28864594 Email: ibeiclement@yahoo.com

Did you know...

... that Chemnitz has 12 twin cities, in Europe, Asia, Africa and the USA?

Did you know...

... that "SCHLINGEL", the International Film Festival for Children and Young Audiences, is based in Chemnitz? Every autumn, for one week, over 200 brand-new films from more than 50 countries are shown: international films in the original language with subtitles. >> www.ff-schlingel.de

Emmanuel Church - Community for German, Farsi and Arabic speakers	Services held in the rooms of the Evangelical International Congregation Theaterstraße 76 (1st floor) 09111 Chemnitz www.emmanuelchurch.de
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People with a migrant background are also integrated in other Chemnitz communities.

Services in native languages are also offered at various churches, e.g. a Holy Mass in Polish is held every Sunday at 11.00 in the parish of St. Antonius Chemnitz.

Erfenschlager Straße 27, 09125 Chemnitz
Phone: 0371 43316180

Other religious communities in Chemnitz

➤ Judaism

A lively Jewish community arose in Chemnitz in the second half of the 19th century. The synagogue on Stephanplatz, Kassberg, was solemnly consecrated on 7 March 1899. By that time, the congregation already had 1,000 members. Their places of origin: Berlin, Romania, Russia, Austria-Galicia, Poland. By 1923, the Jewish community had grown to 3,500 members; there were 26 Jewish associations, one third of Chemnitz's 600 factory owners were Jewish, as were one in ten doctors and many artists as well.

The Nazi terror destroyed Jewish life in Chemnitz, as well as the synagogue. From 1945 onwards, a tiny congregation was rebuilt. In 1957, it had just 35 members; in 1989 only twelve. After the reunification of Germany, numbers increased due to immigration from CIS countries. Today, Chemnitz's Jewish community has about 560 members. Since 2002, the new synagogue on Stollberger Strasse has provided a home for Jewish life in Chemnitz, offering numerous services. A Jewish kindergarten group returned to the city in September 2011; it has its own kitchen where kosher food is cooked daily. Jewish and non-Jewish children play and learn together here according to the principles of the Saxon Education Plan. The idea is to experience tolerance and respect for other cultures, and to experience Jewish traditions and festivals.

Jüdische Gemeinde Chemnitz (Jewish Community Chemnitz)	Stollberger Straße 28 09119 Chemnitz www.jg-chemnitz.de
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Did you know...

... that there are over 50 churches and community centres for different religions in Chemnitz?

➤ Islam

Muslim communities in Chemnitz are very new. The oldest Muslim community in the city is the Fatih Camii Mosque, which has been around since 1998. According to official data, there are four Muslim communities in Chemnitz. Muslim communities are mainly geared towards foreign nationals with similar cultural or linguistic backgrounds. There are an estimated 8,500 Muslims living in Chemnitz. Of these, a total of about 500 people attend Friday prayers in the Muslim congregations.

A Muslim burial ground has been available at the municipal cemetery since 2020.

Fatih Camii Mosque Turkish Cultural Association	Zieschestraße 13 09111 Chemnitz Phone: 0371 4791036
Masjid Mosque Islamic Cultural Association Chemnitz e. V.	Solbrigstraße 22a 09120 Chemnitz
Arab-Islamic Meeting Place El Hadi e. V.	Email: elhadi.e.v@gmx.de
Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat – Community in Chemnitz	Mobile: 0177 2762244 Email: umer.malik@ahmadiyya.de http://www.ahmadiyya.de/gebetsstaette/gemeinden/chemnitz/

➤ Sikh

According to various sources, between 25,000 and 30,000 Sikhs live in Germany, mainly in urban centres such as Frankfurt, Cologne, Hamburg, Munich and Stuttgart. Followers maintain numerous community centres and places of worship in Germany, called "Gurdwara" ("door to the guru"). They also have the opportunity to practise their religion in Chemnitz.

Gurdwara Singh Sabha Chemnitz Sikh Temple Community	Hainstraße 100 09130 Chemnitz
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Did you know...

... that there is a stalactite "cave" in Chemnitz? The Felsendome visitor mine was a lime mine until 1908.

➤ Bahá'í

Around 6,000 Bahá'ís live in many cities and communities in Germany today. Approximately 200 Bahá'ís live in Saxony, 20 of them in Chemnitz.

Bahá'í Community	Phone: 0371 4584048 Email: chemnitz@bahai.de www.chemnitz-bahai.de
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➤ Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons)

In Germany, about 40,000 people are professed Mormons. There are two Mormon temples in Germany, one in Freiberg (situated between Chemnitz and Dresden) and one in Friedrichsdorf, a suburb of Frankfurt. There are at least 150 congregations of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints nationwide, one of which is located in Chemnitz. The congregation in our city looks back on a history of almost 120 years.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Stelzendorfer Straße 25 09116 Chemnitz www.kirche-jesu-christi.org or www.kommzuchristus.org
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Did you know...

... that the important Art Nouveau architect Henry van de Velde worked for Chemnitz factory owners on several occasions? Three of the villas he designed, or rather their furnishings, are still preserved today: Esche Villa, Körner Villa and the interior of Villa Quisisana.

10. CULTURE, SPORT AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Chemnitz is European Capital of Culture 2025. Citizens are actively invited to participate in the cultural enrichment of the city, and also to explore a variety of interesting cultural institutions, sports facilities and leisure facilities. There is much to discover, marvel at, participate in, and contribute to. The City of Chemnitz promotes creativity, togetherness, openness, understanding and quality of life for all! Now it's time to get to work! But how? Where to start? And who's actually got all the ideas? Well, the people of Chemnitz do! Become a part of Chemnitz city culture. Find out more at www.chemnitz.de/kultur.

The Städtisches Theater with its five disciplines – opera, drama, philharmonic orchestra, ballet and puppet theatre – is known far beyond the country's borders.

The Chemnitz Art Collections, which also include the Gunzenhauser Museum, the Schlossberg Museum and the Villa Esche, continue to attract guests from all over the world with sensational exhibitions.

The TIETZ cultural centre hosts an adult education centre, the city library, the New Saxon Gallery and the Museum of Natural History with its world-famous "Petrified Forest".

Also renowned are the Carlowitz Congress Center, the Stadthalle, the Chemnitz Trade Fair and Klaffenbach Castle, which puts on regular concert events for young and old alike.

The Kraftwerk e. V. socio-cultural centre is a magnet for visitors with its extraordinary variety of creative activities and children's, family and street festivals hosted across many different districts.

Another attraction for many young people is the Weltecho, a cultural centre for alternative art and culture.

Did you know...

... that athletes from Chemnitz have won 27 gold, 33 silver and 31 bronze medals at the Olympic Games up to 2020?

Our city is often described as a “city of sport”. Chemnitz is rich in Olympic traditions, more so than virtually any other city in Germany. In addition to competitive sports, there is of course a wide range of sporting activities for all other sports enthusiasts too. Please explore the 221 sports clubs, where you can pursue almost any sporting ambition. The Stadtsportbund (city sports association) provides information on current sports services at www.sport-in-chemnitz.de. It is also happy to answer further questions on sport and migration as well as sport and asylum or sports club membership.

Stadtsportbund Chemnitz e. V.
 Stadlerstraße 14 a, 09126 Chemnitz
 Phone: 0371 495000-40
 Email: info@sportbund-chemnitz.de
www.sportbund-chemnitz.de

SPORTS FOR ALL
www.sport-in-chemnitz.de

“**Sport in Chemnitz**” is an information platform that makes it easier for

- people of all age groups from children to senior citizens,
- people with disabilities and
- people from a migrant background

to access sporting activities, and displays the many options and opportunities for sport in Chemnitz.

Members can register the sports activities they offer and provide up-to-date information about them. For those interested in sport, the platform offers a simple, central location to search for and find suitable sporting activities for a range of target groups.

There is straightforward access to key facts, answers and literature, either directly or by contacting the relevant partners.

SSBC
 STADTSPORTBUND CHEMNITZ
 Stark für den Sport!

Did you know...

... that Chemnitz will be European Capital of Culture in 2025?

11. OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Equal rights

In Germany, men and women have equal rights. Women and men have the same rights and opportunities in the state, in the workplace and in the family.

Women and men decide for themselves which profession they want to pursue. They also decide for themselves how they dress, when and whom they marry, whether they marry at all, and whether and when they want to have children. And men and women are equally involved in household duties and bringing up children.

Public holidays in Germany

On public holidays in Germany, shops are closed and buses, trams and trains run as Sunday services.

These holidays always fall on the same date:

01.01.	New Year
01.05.	Labour Day
03.10.	German Unity Day
31.10.	Reformation Day – in Saxony and other federal states, but not all
25/26.12.	Christmas

These holidays are based on the lunar calendar and therefore do not always fall on the same date:

- Easter (from Friday to Monday, in March or April)
- Ascension Day (Thursday, in the 6th week after Easter)
- Whitsun (Saturday to Monday, 7 weeks after Easter)
- Day of Repentance and Prayer (only in Saxony; Wednesday, usually in the penultimate week of November)

➤ Special information for Christmas and New Year's Eve

For many families and churches, Christmas begins on 24.12. This is why shops often close at 14.00 on this day. Buses, trams and trains run to a Saturday timetable until 15.45. After that they depart from Chemnitz Zentralhaltestelle every 30 minutes from 15.45 until 20.45, then every 60 minutes until 22.45.

Did you know...

... that you can rent bicycles in Chemnitz? A total of 150 “city bikes” can be rented at the main station for EUR 2.50 per day. Children’s bicycles, children’s bicycle seats, a children’s bicycle trailer and tandems are also available. For guests of nine hotels/clinics, bikes can be rented at the respective hotel.

In the night from 31 December to 1 January, people in Germany celebrate “Silvester” (New Year’s Eve). At midnight things get very loud with New Year’s Eve fireworks and firecrackers. In the past, this noise was supposed to drive away evil spirits but today, New Year’s Eve fireworks are an expression of joy for the coming new year.

There’s no need to be afraid: the colourful New Year’s Eve fireworks are loud, but not dangerous if used properly.

To ensure that you see in the New Year smoothly and safely, dazzling fireworks should only be admired from a distance. If you would like to take part yourself, only buy tested fireworks labelled by the testing body: category F2 and the European CE marking (e.g. 0589 - F2 - 1254 / CE 0598). Follow the instructions and only use outdoors. Fireworks such as firecrackers and rockets are sold exclusively from 29 to 31 December, and only to persons over 18 years of age. You are only permitted to light them from 31.12. to 01.01.

Shops often close at 14.00 on 31 December. Buses, trams and trains generally operate on New Year’s Eve as Saturday services.

Insurance

➤ Compulsory insurance

The most important compulsory insurance schemes are health insurance, pension insurance and long-term care insurance. Anyone who has a job is automatically registered for these types of insurance. Non-payment of health insurance can also result in retroactive debts! EU citizens who are not gainfully employed and who have moved their place of residence to Germany (re-registration when relinquishing their home residence) must obtain a certificate from the health insurance provider of their home country in order to register with a health insurance institution at their new place of residence. The German health insurance institution issues a health insurance card, and you are entitled to benefits in kind under German health insurance law.

➤ Voluntary insurance

The most important types of voluntary insurance are liability insurance, household insurance and legal expenses insurance. If someone accidentally causes damage to another person, their liability insurance pays. Household insurance is paid if items in your home are broken, for example in the case of water damage. Legal expenses insurance covers the costs of legal disputes relating to the areas of life specified in the contract.

Did you know...

... that the world’s first health insurance law for low-income earners was passed and enacted in Germany in 1883?

Local public transport

Inner-city transport is provided by Chemnitzer Verkehrs-AG (CVAG), which operates trains, trams and buses.

Many local transport lines meet at the Zentralhaltestelle in the city centre. From there, they run to the different districts of Chemnitz. The lines are coordinated in such a way as to reduce your waiting time when changing between different routes.

In addition to shops and snack bars, the CVAG Mobility Centre is also located at the Zentralhaltestelle. Please visit the Centre for personal advice on the right ticket, timetables for inner-city lines, and to find out about the cheapest connections to your destination.

Mobilitätszentrum der CVAG
Chemnitz-Plaza
Rathausstraße 7
09111 Chemnitz
Phone: 0371 2370333



You can travel around the city by bus, tram, Chemnitz City-Bahn or train. You will need a ticket – make sure you buy the right one! You can buy tickets as single tickets, day tickets, weekly tickets or for the whole month. The monthly travel pass is transferable, so other people can use it if necessary.

In addition to the Mobility Centre, you can also buy your ticket directly from the bus driver or from the ticket machines on the trams. These tickets are already validated at the time of purchase. An exception is the 4-trip tickets.

At some stops in the city area, you can buy your ticket from a ticket machine. At the ticket machine, select your desired ticket via the display. Don’t forget to validate your ticket, otherwise it will not be valid and you will have to pay a fine.

PLEASE NOTE: On CVAG buses, you cannot use cash to buy your tickets. It is only possible to buy tickets with cash at the ticket machines or at the Mobility Centre.



It is very important to travel with a valid ticket. If you do not have a ticket, or a valid ticket, and are checked, you must usually pay € 60. Travelling without a ticket may even lead to criminal charges.

(Source: CVAG)

Did you know...

... that working off the books (working without the appropriate permit) is illegal?

➤ International medical practice at Chemnitz Hospital

When asylum seekers need to see a doctor for acute pain or illness, or to get vaccinations, they are treated at the refugee outpatient clinic. If asylum seekers do not have their own health insurance card, they will require a medical treatment certificate, which is issued at the Social Welfare Office. (See page 33 for address.)

In addition, an appointment must be made in advance by telephone. The intercultural practice team speaks Arabic, English, French, Spanish and German. Video interpreting is available for other languages.

General practitioners and doctors specialising in paediatric and adolescent medicine, gynaecology and obstetrics work at the practice.

Internationale Praxis am Klinikum Chemnitz
09116 Chemnitz
Flemmingstraße 4, Building B of the Frauen- und Kinderklinik, ground floor
Phone: 0371 262129-60
Email: internationalepraxis.chemnitz@kvsachsen.de

➤ Psychosocial Centre Counselling centre for people with a refugee and migrant background

This centre offers free counselling and psychological support for people with a refugee or migrant background.

SFZ Förderzentrum gGmbH
Psychosoziales Zentrum – Beratungsstelle Chemnitz
09111 Chemnitz
Düsseldorfer Platz 1 (entrance via Richard-Möbius-Straße)
Phone: 0371 404672-02
Email: psz@sfz-chemnitz.de

➤ Chemnitz Medical Office

The Chemnitz Medical Office initiative (Medibüro Chemnitz) arranges medical help anonymously and free of charge for those who do not have sufficient insurance. This can affect people without residence status, asylum seekers, EU citizens and Germans.

Medibüro Chemnitz e. V.
Phone: 0179 7275686
Email: kontakt@medibuero-chemnitz.org

Did you know...

... that CVAG buses have front-door boarding? This means you have to get on where the driver sits, and show a valid ticket. Get off at the second, third or fourth door. Please note: Tram doors and the third and fourth doors of articulated buses close automatically if the exit area remains empty for more than three seconds.

Broadcasting licence fee

Since 2013, the rule has been: one licence fee paid per household. The broadcasting licence fee ("Rundfunkbeitrag") is currently around €18.36 per month. It does not matter how many devices or people are in the household.

If you receive benefits from the Job Centre or under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act, you do not have to pay the broadcasting licence fee. If this is the case, you must apply directly to the benefits service and send a copy of your benefit statement along with your application.

Further information on the broadcasting licence fee, concessions and exemptions as well as the application forms can be found at www.rundfunkbeitrag.de.

Separating waste

In Germany, waste is strictly separated. Disposing of waste correctly greatly reduces the environmental impact and helps to save on valuable resources. For this reason, recyclable materials such as paper, glass, etc. are collected separately and sent for recycling. The collection of these recyclables is provided free of charge, and also helps individual households save on costs.

➤ Separating waste in Chemnitz

In residential areas, glass recycling bins are provided in public places: these have separate openings for brown glass, green glass and white glass. Jars and glass bottles must be placed in the bins according to their colour.

In some places, there are also public recycling bins for paper and cardboard, old textiles (old clothes and shoes) and small electrical/electronic appliances and metals.



Did you know...

... that Chemnitz Zoo turned 55 in 2019? Over 1,000 animals from all over the world live here.

Every inhabited property has a waste disposal system. Residents use the bins in front of their property to dispose of their waste.

Blue bin	Black bin	Yellow bin	Brown bin
for paper and cardboard	for other waste	for lightweight packaging	for bio-waste
			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspapers • Catalogues • Magazines • Flour bags • Old exercise books • Empty cartons • Envelopes, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ash • Sweepings • Hoover bags • Wallpaper remnants • Nappies • Hygiene items • Cat litter • Dog waste in bag, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yoghurt pots • Beverage cartons • Chocolate foil wrappers • Washing-up liquid bottles • Tins • Aluminium tubes • Screw caps and bottle caps, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foliage • Shrub cuttings • Fruit and vegetable trimmings • Food waste • Lawn clippings • Tea bags • Cut flowers, etc.

Always close the waste bin lids in order to avoid unpleasant odours.
Do not place any waste next to the bins.
Do not put plastic bags into the bio-waste bin (brown bin).

Batteries, energy-saving light bulbs, old medicines, electrical and electronic appliances (e.g. televisions, refrigerators) and old furniture can be taken to municipal recycling centres during opening hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 08.00 – 18.00
Wednesday 10.00 – 20.00
Saturday 07.00 – 15.00

Did you know...

... that Chemnitz is a very green city?
Of a total area of about 22,000 ha, 15% is forest and 9% comprises parks and other recreational areas.
In addition, 38% is agricultural land.

Locations of recycling centres:

Blankenburgstraße 62, Jägerschlößchenstraße 15 a, Kalkstraße 47,
Straße Usti nad Labem 30, Weißer Weg.

For information on waste disposal in Chemnitz, please contact the waste advice service on 0371 4095-102 or visit the City of Chemnitz municipal waste management and urban cleaning company website at www.ASR-Chemnitz.de.
(Source: ASR)

Did you know...

...that it is illegal to burn waste anywhere other than licensed facilities?

Important telephone numbers

Police	110
Fire/rescue service	112
Medical emergency service	116117
Poison emergency telephone	0361 730730
Women's emergency hotline (for raped, sexually abused women and girls)	0371 4014075 0172 3718116
Emergency service for children and young people	0371 3344566 0151 18219555
Crisis line	0800 1110111 or 0800 1110222
Citizens' service telephone	115
Intervention and Coordination Centre against Domestic Violence and Stalking	0371 9185354 0178 7645974
Victim counselling after racist violence	0371 4819451 0172 9743674
Victim counselling after criminal action	0371 4331698 (Opferhilfe e. V. victim support) or 0151 55164861 (WEISSER RING)

➤ Checklist – First steps after arrival in Chemnitz

- Notify the competent registration office within two weeks of moving into an apartment/house
- Report to the Immigration Authority to clarify matters relating to your right of residence
- Register with your chosen health insurance institution
- Open a bank account

Registrations if required

- Register children at school and/or kindergarten
- Job centre to apply for basic income support
- Social Welfare Office to apply for basic income support (for old-age pensioners and persons unable to work)
- Pension office (for old-age pensioners and those unfit for work only)
- Registration with the Beitragservice "contribution service" (television, radio, internet – once per residence)
- Re-registration of your motor vehicle
- Transcription of your driving licence

➤ CONTACT

Stadt Chemnitz – Sozialamt (Social Welfare Office)

Moritzhof, Bahnhofstraße 53

09111 Chemnitz

Phone: 0371 488-5001

Fax: 0371 488-5099

Email: sozialamt@stadt-chemnitz.de

www.chemnitz.de



Bürgerhaus Am Wall

Düsseldorfer Platz 1, 09111 Chemnitz

- Stadt Chemnitz – Bürgeramt, Meldebehörde, Staatsangehörigkeitsbehörde, Ausländerbehörde (Citizens Office, Registration Office, Nationality Authority, Immigration Authority)



Neubau an der Alten Post

Bahnhofstraße 54 a, 09111 Chemnitz

- Stadt Chemnitz – Sozialamt (Social Welfare Office) Abteilung Migration, Integration, Wohnen (Department of Migration, Integration and Housing)



Moritzhof

Moritzstraße 53, 09111 Chemnitz

- Stadt Chemnitz – Sozialamt (Social Welfare Office) Kundenportal Soziale Leistungen (Customer social benefits portal)
- Stadt Chemnitz – Amt für Jugend und Familie (Office for Youth and Family)
- Stadt Chemnitz – Migrationsbeauftragte (Migration Officer)