

GERMANY





Facts

- Location: Middle of Europe
- Capital: Berlin
- Population: 83 million
- Language: German
- Currency: Euro (€)
- North to South : 880 km (550 miles)
- West to East: 640 km (400 miles)



WHAT DOES GERMANY LOOK LIKE?



WHAT DOES GERMANY LOOK LIKE?

The School System

The Basics:

- Starts at age 6
- After 4th grade, students are placed into one of 3 types of schools:
 - *Gymnasium* - academic, for college
 - *Realschule* - middle track
 - *Hauptschule* - practical, job-focused

School Facts:

- School usually ends around **1-2 PM**
- No school buses - kids take trains, bikes or walk
- You stay with the **same class all year**, for every subject
- The Classroom belongs to the Students not the Teachers
- No school sports teams, cheerleaders or clubs
- You can't *choose* classes - it's all mandatory

Shockers:

- No Prom. No Homecoming. No spirit week.
- Grades go from 1 (best) to 6 (fail) — not A to F
- You might fail a year, and that's normal





Teen Lifestyle

Social Life:

- Teens don't hang out in malls — they chill in parks, cafés, hookah bars, clubs and bars
- People mostly hang out in groups at train stations or public places drink, smoke and talk
- Spontaneity > planning. A lot is like “just come over.”

Phone culture:

- WhatsApp > iMessage
- Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok – same as US
- Group chats rule everything

Getting Around:

- If you have no drivers license yet — you use **bikes, buses, trains**

Laws & Freedom

Driver's License

- You can't drive until you're **18**
- Getting a license costs **\$2,000+**
- Driving school is **mandatory**

Alcohol

- **Beer & wine legal at 16**
- **Hard liquor at 18**
- You can drink in **parks, on the street, even on trains**
- Alcohol is just **part of social life**, not “forbidden fun”
- Teens are used to it, so there's less binge-drinking than you'd think

Smoking

Legal at **18** – but yes, many **younger smoke anyway**

Smoking isn't “rebellious,” it's **social**

Cigarette vending machines exist

Vapes are also used, but cigarettes are still super common

Other stuff:

- You can **legally drink with parental consent** at 14
- You're considered an **adult at 18** – legally, financially, and socially



Food

- 🍗 **Döner Kebab** – #1 teen fast food
(like a better gyro)
- 🌭 **Currywurst** – sausage + ketchup
+ curry powder
- 🍩 **Pretzels, Schnitzel, Spätzle,
Bread** – always fresh
- 🥤 No free refills. Water often costs
money
- 🍟 McDonald's is fancier and sells
beer
- 🥞 Breakfast is small – usually
bread, cheese, maybe Nutella

Cool, Weird & Real Differences

- Germany (all of Europe) uses the metric system
- 24-hour clock is standard (13:00 = 1 PM)
- Date format: day/month/year (01.10.2025 = Oct 1, 2025)
- We mostly drink tap water / bottled water is uncommon
- AC is rare – homes, schools, shops usually have none
- Many places only take cash – especially small shops or bakeries
- Public toilets often cost money (50 cents to 1€)
- By law, stores are closed on Sundays (except some bakeries in the morning)
- Quiet hours are enforced: No vacuuming, loud music, etc.
 - ❖ Night quiet: 10 PM – 6 AM
 - ❖ Want to party at home? Tell your neighbors first or keep it quiet
- Water is not free in restaurants (you pay even for tap water)
- No free refills – not for soda, not for coffee
- Bottle deposit: 25 cents back for returning plastic bottles

Topic	Germany	USA
Temperature	Celsius (°C)	Fahrenheit (°F)
Distance	Kilometers (km)	Miles
Weight	Kilograms (kg)	Pounds (lbs)
Time	24-hour clock	12-hour AM/PM
Paper size	DIN A4	Letter



German Behavior That Feels Rude (But Isn't)

- **No smiling at strangers**

- Smiling for no reason? Creepy
- People think: Do I know you?

- **No small talk**

- Talking to strangers is “weird” unless you have a reason

Customer service is not friendly – but efficient

- Employees don't fake smiles or say “Have a nice day” → You get what you need, and that's it

- **Blunt honesty = not rude**

- People say what they think – directly
- Example: “That haircut doesn't suit you” = not an insult, just a fact

- **Punctuality is serious**

- Being even 5 minutes late is considered disrespectful
- if you say 3 PM, you mean 3 PM

- **People rarely say “sorry” unless it's serious**

- “Excuse me” culture is different
- If you bump someone by accident, a dirty look might be more common than “Sorry”

- **No tipping culture = no fake politeness**

- Waiters don't depend on tips
- service is just... neutral
- No Tipping or even 10 Cents are ok

My Career - Public Administration

- Government Employee
- German Immigration Office – It's like working for "U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services"

In the past: Asylum Department

- I used to work with refugees and asylum seekers.
- They come to Germany and apply for protection.

I was responsible for:

- Processing their residence permits (called "Aufenthaltstitel")
- Checking documents, laws, and their situation
- Deciding whether they could legally stay in Germany

Now: Naturalization Department

- I work in naturalization (German: *Einbürgerung*).
- I help people who've lived in Germany for a long time and want to become German citizens.

Here's how it works:

- People submit an application
- I check if they meet the legal requirements (language, time lived in Germany, clean criminal record, etc.)
- If everything is correct, I grant them German citizenship

To work in this field in Germany, most people study:

- Public Administration
- Law or Public Policy
- Or take part in a special government training program



What skills are important?

- Understanding of immigration laws and legal processes
- Very detail-oriented – small mistakes can have big consequences
- Strong communication skills (with people from many backgrounds)
- Patience, empathy, and cultural sensitivity
- Organization – lots of documents and deadlines
- Sometimes foreign languages

Personal Information

Name: Denis G.
Date and Place of Birth: March 13, xxxx in xxx
Address: xxx, Berlin
Nationality: German
Phone: +49 172 xxxxxxx

❖ Education and Professional Carrer

- 2003 – 2007Lingenfeld Primary School
- 2007 – 2009Izmir Özel Türk Koleji (Izmir, Turkey)
- 2009 – 2011Hans-Purmann-Gymnasium, Speyer
- 2011 – 2014Realschule plus Bellheim
 - Secondary School Certificate (Mittlere Reife)
- 2014 – 2015Highlands High School (Natrona Heights, PA - USA)
 - American High School Diploma
- 2015 – 2016Friedrich-Magnus-Schwerd Gymnasium Speyer
- 2016 – 2018Vocational School Landau/Pfalz
 - Entrance qualification for University of Applied Sciences
- Aug 1, 2018 – Jun 9, 2021Louise-Schroeder-Schule Berlin
 - Training as an Administrative Clerk (Verwaltungsfachangestellter)
 - Recruiting Authority: Federal Ministry of Education and Research
- Jun 10, 2021 – Jul 31, 2021Federal Ministry of Education and Research
 - Public sector employee in Department Z15 "Internal Services"
- Sep 1, 2021 – Aug 31, 2022Student at Technical University of Applied Sciences Wildau
 - "Business and Law" (discontinued)
- Nov 15, 2021 – May 31, 2022Wildau Institute of Technology e.V.
 - Clerk in the Admissions and Application Office (Part-Time)
- Oct 1, 2022 – Sep 30, 2025Dual Student at Berlin School of Economics and Law
 - Recruiting Authority: Senate Department for the Interior and Sports
 - Practical Authority: Berlin Immigration Office
 - Assigned Departments: A5 (Asylum) and S3 (Naturalization)
- Nov 25, 2024 – Jan 31, 2025 and Apr 2, 2025 – Jun 30, 2025Part-time Secondary Employment (during the theoretical phases at the university)
 - Berlin State Office for Immigration (Department S3)

❖ Skills

Language Skills

Deutsch German and Turkish (native)
English (fluent in written and spoken)
French (basic knowledge)

IT Skills

Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
Microsoft Outlook
Internal administrative software used within the Berlin public administration

Berlin, October 1, 2025
Denis G.

HOW DOES A RESUME
LOOK LIKE?

Thanks for Listening!