

## 5 Questions about the long-term residence permit

1. What is a long-term residence permit?

Although it might be clear to most of the readers, a long term residence permit is a residence permit which allows the foreigner to stay an unlimited amount of time within the borders. It is most common in Germany the form of the so called „Niederlassungserlaubnis“. Other countries have similar regulations: Carte de résidence de longue durée in France or permesso di soggiorno di lungo periodo in Italy.

2. What are the advantages of a long term residence permit?

Basically every restriction is taken away from the foreigner. Freedom in residence as well as free choice of work without the past restrictions comes along with the long term residence permit. Other than that long term residents receive social benefits such as unemployment benefit, child benefits or parenting benefits. In most european countries those regulations apply with little exceptions.

3. How can I get a long term residence permit in Germany?

Mainly the permanent residence permit requires the foreigner to stay at least 5 years legally within the border and the german language. Other issues are living space, pension schemes, stable and regular resources which are sufficient to maintain himself/herself and the members of his/her family, without recourse to the social assistance system, public security and sickness insurance. There are a lot of exceptions, so it is to complex to explain it in just this few lines.

4. Can I lose my long term residence permit?

For sure it is a possibility if one commits felonies. Even a „Niederlassungserlaubnis“ might get lost if the foreigner commits serious crimes. Other than that it is important to note that staying away for a longer period (e.g.more than 6 months) is a reason to lose the residence permit. The time one is allowed to stay outside the country may differ for certain kind of residence permits. So you may consult the foreign office in advance.

5. How can I change my „Duldung“ to a long term residence permit?

With the so called Ausbildungsduhlung it is possible to find a way to a permanent residence permit. Other ways like through family reunion or marriage are also options. It is important to know that it is always required to have a clean criminal record, a steady income and a clear indentity.