

Basic account for asylum seekers from 2016 onwards

What will you face in the next few months in Germany?

Has your residence status already been approved?

What form will your integration take in Germany or the European Union?

➔ **A current account is important for your successful integration!** ←

The European Parliament has therefore decided to introduce the basic account between the start of 2016 and September 2016 at the latest. A non-discriminatory application should then legally be possible for every EU citizen.

The basic account

With effect from 2016, you can apply for a basic account using your temporary toleration documents issued by the Foreigners Registration Office. The corresponding bank must then legally comply with your request for a current account.

The possibility to take part in cashless payment transactions using a current account and the related cash card will substantially increase your chances of successful integration in Germany and throughout Europe:

- Everyday life is easier
- Livelihood security through participation in economic life

The path to your temporary toleration documents or an approved residence confirmation notice

1. Personal registration by the Foreigners Registration Office which is responsible for you
2. The Foreigners Registration Office issues your temporary toleration document/approved residence confirmation notice

What preconditions must your toleration documents fulfil?

- **Seal of a domestic Foreigners Registration Office**
- Your **truthful identity information** with:
 - **Your current address**
 - **A current passport photograph**
 - **Your signature**

This also necessitates your active cooperation! Integration is regarded as an integral process and means that both sides must comply with rights and obligations!

The current account problem

To date it has not been readily possible for every citizen to obtain a current account in Germany. The following conditions will apply up until the end of 2015:

- Stipulation of the permanent place of residence
- In order to personally identify yourself, production of an identity document containing your surname, forename, address, date of birth and a biometric passport photograph
- Proof of creditworthiness/solvency.

To date there has been no legal right to a current account in Germany! Salary payments, welfare benefits, rent payments, etc. become a problem for affected persons. With effect from 2016, however, EU citizens will have a national right to a current account through the basic account.

What does a basic account include?

The exact model is not yet known. However, the objective of a basic account is to fundamentally allow the holder to take part in cashless payment transactions. This will probably involve a current account on a credit basis. You can therefore dispose of the money which is actually in your account. This is similar to a prepaid mobile phone which is topped up before use.

The basic account will enable you to

- make deposits and payments (salary payments, receipt of welfare benefits, etc.),
- transfer money and make payments by direct debit (rent payments, invoices, etc.).

The cash card with the basic account

You will normally receive a cash card (Maestro or giro card) with your current account. You will also only receive a credit card if you provide proof of your creditworthiness and freedom from debts. A prepaid credit card would be an option for you.