



Freie und Hansestadt Hamburg
Behörde für Inneres und Sport
Einwohner-Zentralamt

Einwohner-Zentralamt, Hammer Straße 30-34, 22041 Hamburg



Hamburg, 08.03.2019

Dear Sir/ Madam,

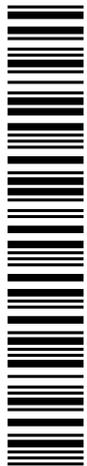
the United Kingdom (UK) has declared that it will leave the European Union (EU) on 29th March 2019. This decision will have an impact on your right of residency as a British citizen living in Germany, since it means that you will no longer be an EU citizen but a citizen of a (non-EU) third-country.

At the present moment in time it is not possible to say what the precise consequences of the UK's leaving the EU will be for your right of residency in Germany. This will depend on whether the Withdrawal Agreement concluded between the UK and the EU enters into force or not.

If the agreement does enter into force, it foresees a transitional period until the end of 2020, during which time British citizens will continue to benefit from the existing EU free movement rights which apply to EU citizens. The provisions of German residency law covering third-country (non-EU) citizens would then only apply to you from 1st January 2021, taking into account the particular privileges granted to British citizens in the Withdrawal Agreement.

On the other hand, if the Withdrawal Agreement does not enter into force on the date the UK leaves the EU ("no-deal Brexit"), the current state of play in Germany foresees adopting a national regulation covering a three-month transitional period. In these circumstances you would, as a UK citizen already residing in Germany, be exempt for a further three months (until 29th June 2019) from the standard requirement for third-country nationals to obtain a residency permit. Accordingly, your continuing residency in Germany, as well as the ongoing exercise of any economic activity here, would remain lawful until 29th June 2019.

However, as things currently stand your residency beyond this date is not assured. Consequently, by 29th June 2019 you will be required to apply for a residency permit to ensure that your continuing residency in Germany and the exercise of any economic activity here remains lawful beyond 29th June 2019. You can submit this application in Hamburg, without needing to go through a specific visa application procedure from abroad



in advance. To submit a residency application you will require a valid British passport. By completing the application, your rights will be safeguarded until a decision on your application is taken. It is thus sufficient for you to apply for a residency permit by 29th June 2019. Provided that you apply by this date, your continuing residency as well as the exercise of any economic activity in Germany will remain lawful beyond 29th June 2019, even if the Foreign Nationals Office (*Ausländerbehörde*) does not take a decision on your application until after that date.

To submit your application we ask that by 29th June 2019 at the latest you register yourself and, where applicable, also your spouse / civil partner and any children aged under 18 who are living together with you in Hamburg. For this purpose an online registration platform will go live in April 2019 on the website of the Central Residents Office (*Einwohner-Zentralamt*) at www.hamburg.de/eza. By registering on this platform you will safeguard your rights in the same way as if you were applying formally for a residency permit. You will receive confirmation of this in a further letter to that effect. This letter will also advise you of the next steps in the process.

You can find additional information on the topic of the continuing residency of British citizens online at:

<https://www.hamburg.de/brexit/staatsbuergerschaft-und-aufenthalt/>,
www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/DE/2018/12/brexit and
www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-germany#visas-and-residency.

If you have been living in Germany for a long time or if you are married to a German citizen, you could consider the option of naturalisation. You can find more information about obtaining German citizenship online at www.einbuengerung.hamburg.de. Even in the event of a “no-deal” Brexit you can obtain German citizenship whilst retaining your British nationality, provided that you apply by 29th March 2019 and that all other conditions for naturalisation are met.

Yours sincerely
Central Residents Office