You have the same rights and duties as German trainees and employees. For example, the Federal Employment Agency will ensure you are not employed at worse conditions than local employees.

Do you have any questions about easier access to training and the labour market through the new Integration Act? Would you like to find out more about the support measures? Do the new rules fit your situation?

More information is available at the Youth Employment Advisory Agency (Jugendberufsagentur) if you are under 25 years old, or at the point of contact of the W.I.R (work and integration for refugees) if you are over 25 years old, and on

www.hamburg.de/yourchance

Imprint:
Freie und Hansestadt Hamburg
Behörde für Arbeit, Soziales, Familie und Integration
Hamburger Straße 47
22083 Hamburg
Refugees who have to leave the country can get the right to stay in Germany by successfully completing vocational training and then taking employment in the profession they have learned.

Please note: this does not apply in particular to

- Nationals of safe countries of origin¹, who have arrived in Germany since 1 September 2015 and
- Convicted criminals above certain petty crime thresholds.

For you as a refugee with exceptional leave to remain or as an asylum seeker (with the exceptions detailed above) this means:

- Employers can generally offer you a training place regardless of how old you are or what concrete residency status you currently have. Thus for trainees whose asylum application is still being processed, it no longer depends on the result of the application in particular. Even if the application is rejected, there will be exceptional leave to remain for the rest of the training and then the possibility to work in the profession learned for at least two years.

- If you start training (or also have already started), you will get exceptional leave to remain for the duration of the training – usually three years – and then a permit as an employee for initially two years. This certainty about staying in Germany can also be an argument for a potential training company to recruit you, if the question of your residency status comes up in a job interview.

- Because the work permit you need is issued for the specific training position, the Central Aliens’ Office conducts an individual check of each case for holders of temporary residency permits or those with exceptional leave to remain. The training contract has to be submitted to the Aliens’ Office for this.

- Note: you do not need a separate work permit, if you have a residency permit, a temporary residency permit or exceptional leave to remain that generally allows you to get a job or enter employment.

- If you or your training company end the training employment, your exceptional leave to remain will continue for another six months. During this time, you can look for a second training position.

- After the training and after two years of employment, the residency permit can be extended further as an employee. If the conditions are met, you can also be issued a permanent residency permit by the Aliens’ Office.

- So that you as a refugee with a temporary residency permit or exceptional leave to remain, and your training company can also profit from the easier access to training, the Federal Employment Agency and the Job Centre will help you. Access to these agencies has also been made easier for those with exceptional leave to remain on the Integration Act taking effect. After you have been in Germany for twelve months you can get help accompanying your training and assistance during your training.

¹ As per section 29a of the German Asylum Act safe countries of origin are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ghana, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Senegal and Serbia.