

Welcome to the rural



Landkreis
DAHME-SPREEWALD

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District administrator's welcoming speech

Dear fellow citizens

Please feel welcome to the rural district Dahme-Spreewald!

By having opted for living here you have opted for a life surrounded by nature, a growing economy and a huge cooperation.

People from 98 different nations are already living here. This growing district has many chances to offer you. Dahme-Spreewald is one of the leading economical centres of east Germany. Located between the sizzling Metropole Berlin and the unique Spreewald´s wildlife you can't go wrong.

Nevertheless, a new beginning in a new and strange country is never an easy task. With this brochure we hope to help you with this task. Here you will find a set of several beneficial information that will provide you orientation and support in your adaptation process.

We want to help you and your family to be more integrated in many practical ways. And this regardless of the topic; dealing with idiomatic issues, participating in language courses, advisory in finding the right day care facility, financing education, etc.

Please do make the best of it! It will certainly help you to learn German faster and become part of our community.

I wish that you achieve the greatest possible start in your integration and that you get to feel yourself as an essential part our society.



Stephan Loge
District adm.





Willkommen! Welcome! Bienvenue! Bienvenidos! Witamy Sveiki!
Dobro došli!

Immigration characterizes our district since many years. We all benefit from the potentials and experiences that you are bringing with you to this country. I do hope that our district becomes your new and beloved home soon.

In order to minimize your fears and initial insecurities in your new start in this new society, we have designed this brochure with all the necessary information available. It will support you and give you some orientation. Political and bureaucratic structures often seem complex and confusing. However, many of you will be able to face this correctly by practicing and patience. Perhaps more than one date or meeting will be required to complete a certain legal process. But all this will change with time.

What should I do first? Where do I find the right language course for me? Where would someone take care of my children? Which school is the right one? Would I find a suitable residence? How does the public transport system work? Who can advise me on which matters? These and many other questions have we already answered for you in the next pages.

Surely, you will not find the precise answer to each of your specific questions instantly. My office remains available to you. You will find my contact information and the most important advisory institutions in page 36.

I invite you to become a central part of our community. Let's create a colourful, plural and tolerant future together!

Antje Jahn
Migration and integration mandatory

2. Being new in Dahme-Spreewald

A new start in a foreign environment is usually a very demanding project. There are some crucial tasks that have to be done as soon as possible after your arrival.

2.1 First steps

Aliens department

The Aliens department (in German “Ausländerbehörde”) is the institution in charge of immigration. It decides on the residence, its duration and its end. It coaches and supervises its clients in order to clarify their legal status as quickly as possible and to determine the consequent measures. Moreover, this department handles the foreign and residential legal framework for those who seek Asylum.

Besides, it is the regional delegated institution to all foreigners who have or want to have a main residence in the rural district Dahme-Spreewald. The assistance given to the clients normally depends of the purpose of the stay and is independent of the nationality.

Functions:

- Issuance and extension of the residence title for specific purposes (in German Aufenthaltstitel), the residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis), the settlement permit (Niederlassungserlaubnis) and in some cases of the visa (Visa).
- Issuance of freedom of movement permits and EU long-term residence permits.
- Cooperation with the German representation in foreign countries for processes related with the visa (e.g. family reunion, marriage, Au-Pair employment and work stay)
- Issuance of travel ID and document replacement for foreigners.
- Issuance and extension of residence title for asylum purposes.
- Issuance and extension of connivance
- Determination of foreigners ‘permit to work
- Evaluation of the obligation or the right to participate in an integration course in terms of the regulation on integration courses.

Landkreis Dahme-Spreewald

Ordnungsamt
Schulweg 1b
15711 Königs Wusterhausen
Tel: 03375 26 26-0
Fax: 03375 26-2108
Mail: abh@dahme-spreewald.de

Consultation hours

Tuesday	08:00 - 12:00 13:00 - 18:00
Thursday	08:00 - 12:00 13:00 - 16:00

In order to reduce waiting times, we recommend you to set an appointment previous to your visit.



With this you can get an appointment with the Aliens Department online.

Please do not forget to bring your residence title and your passport (or any similar ID-document) with you to each appointment. The handing of further relevant documentation might be imperative. The services offered by the Aliens department tend to be subjected to charges. In rare cases these charges can be lowered or even disappear.

Application in the residents 'registration office (Anmeldung im Einwohnermeldeamt)

Just like in the rest of Germany a compulsory registration is required. This means that anyone who has or wants to have a house here must first register in the corresponding registry office (Meldebehörde). According to § 12 BbgMeldeG (Brandenburgisches Meldegesetz = registration law of Brandenburg), this has to occur within the first two weeks. The registration takes place in the residents' registration office of the city (Stadt) or commune (Gemeinde).

Commune Schönefeld

Hans-Grade-Allee 11
12529 Schönefeld
Tel: 030 536720-105
Fax: 030 536720-198

Commune Eichwalde / Commune Schulzendorf / Commune Zeuthen

Grünauer Straße 49
15732 Eichwalde
Tel: 030 67502-301/302
Mail: Einwohnermeldeamt@eichwalde.de
www.eichwalde.de

City Wildau

Stadtverwaltung
Karl-Marx-Straße 36
15745 Wildau
Tel: 03375 5054-60

Commune Bestensee

Eichhornstraße 4-5
15741 Bestensee
Tel: 033763 99812
Fax: 033763 63489

City Königs Wusterhausen

Rathaus
Schlossstraße 3
15711 Königs Wusterhausen
Tel: 03375 273-373
Fax: 03375 273-386
Mail: buergerservice@stadt-kw.de

City Mittenwalde

Rathaus
Rathausstraße 8
15749 Mittenwalde
Tel: 033764 898-0
Fax: 033764 898-50
Mail: post@mittenwalde.de

City Heidesee

Gemeindevertretung
Lindenstraße 14 b
15754 Heidesee OT Friedersdorf
Tel: 033767 795-0
Fax: 033767 795-10
Mail: post@gemeinde-heidesee.de

Agency Schenkenländchen

Bürgerbüro
Markt 9, Gebäude B
15755 Teupitz
Tel: 033766 6890
Fax: 033766 68958
Mail: buergerbuero@amt-schenkenlaendchen.de

Agency Unterspreewald

Einwohnermeldeamt
Markt 1, 15938 Golßen
Tel: 035452 384-0
und
Hauptstraße 49, 15910 Schönwald
Tel: 035474 206-0

Commune Märkische Heide

Schlossstraße 13 a
15913 Märkische Heide OT Groß Leuthen
Tel: 035471 851-43
Fax: 035471 851-55
Mail: ewo-gewerbe@maerkische-heide.de

Agency Lieberose / Oberspreewald

Verwaltungstelle Straupitz

Registering your children in the school

In Germany exists a 10-year based general compulsory schooling. Every child, who has completed his/her sixth year of age or is going to complete it by the 31st of December, must attend school. Children between the first and the sixth grade have to be registered in the elementary school (Grundschule) corresponding to the domicile. A secondary school is optional from the seventh grade on. After the elementary school the German school system is divided in three types of school: „Gesamtschule“, „Oberschule“ and „Gymnasium“. Depending on the school concerned, there are different types of school leaving certificates.

Oberschule offers general education from 7th until 10th grade. Students, who end satisfactory the 10th grade, receive a so called Berufsbildungsreife (BB). After approving the 10th grade, they can obtain the BB and a Fachoberschulreife/Real-

Kirchstraße 11
15913 Straupitz (Spreewald)
Tel: 035475 863-0
Fax: 035475 863-65
Mail: amt@lieberose-oberspreewald.de

City Lübben (Spreewald)

Poststraße 5
15907 Lübben (Spreewald)
Tel: 03546 79-2508
Mail: meldeamt@luebben.de

City Luckau

Rathaus
Am Markt 34
15926 Luckau
Tel: 03544 594-142 /-144
Mail: einwohnermeldeamt@luckau.de

Commune Heideblick

Langengrassau Luckauer Straße 61
15926 Heideblick
Tel: 035454 8810
Fax: 035454 88188
Mail: gemeinde@heideblick.de

schulabschluss (FOR).

Gymnasium in Brandenburg leads students through 6 years of school to a Hochschulreife (normally called „Abitur“).

Gesamtschulen offer the possibility of obtaining both: a BB (after completing the 9th grade), and eBB (after taking an extra exam by the end of the 10th grade). A FOR can be obtained, as well. After finishing the 12th grade successfully, a student receives an Abitur.

For an overview of all the school types in the rural district Dahme-Spreewald, please click on this link below:

https://www.dahme-spreewald.info/de/Bildung/Schulen_im_LDS/2872.html

Registering your child in a day-care facility (Kita)

Kindertagesstätten – shortly named Kitas – foster and take care of children from babyhood until school start.

Kita's main function lies on supporting parents with their family-profession balance. If you want/need that your son or daughter visits a Kita, please do register your child at your preferred Kita on time.

For an overview on all the Kitas in the rural district Dahme-Spreewald, please click on this link below:

https://www.dahme-spreewald.info/de/Familie_&_Soziales/Kinder_Jugend_und_Familie/Kitafinder/5448.html

For more information about our Kitas, please go to the topic 5.1 in page 19.

2.2 Advisory services for immigrants

The migration advisory for adults (MEB) you can benefit from a personalized advisory and support with any question regarding integration. The advisor will create with you a specific support plan and will inform you about potential aid held by other institutions. The consulting is executed by the charity organizations Diakonie and Caritas. An important condition is that you have to be over 27 years old.

On the other hand, youth migration office (Jugendmigrationsdienst) provides specified information to young immigrants and young adults. The migration station is there specially for young adults (below 27 Years old), who just arrived to Germany and plan a long-term stay. Kids with backgrounds related to migration, who are already living in Germany and are between 12 and 27 years old. They must also have an urgent or significant integration need.

As a young immigrant you can find in the JMD:

- Individual advisory and escort to all stations for your integration process.
A personal integration plan created for and with you.
- Advisory related redirection to other relevant institutions with integration purposes such as: counselling regarding health, drugs, pregnancy, children carrier and youth welfare.
- Interesting offers related to your individual integration process such as: language courses, job preparing measures, educational and recreational advisory and support for internships.
- Orientation guide regarding the German educational system, vocational education, occupational education and information technology.
- Help in particular crises.

Please take advantage of all these services and opportunities when you need them! Here you can find an overview of the migration advisory offices and centres:

Youth migration centre in Königs Wusterhausen

Youth migration service for young migrants

aged 12-27 Years

Tel: 03375-2108121

Mail: d.zuber@migration-luebben.de

Youth migration center in Lübben

Youth migration service for young migrants

aged 12-27 Years

Tel: 03546-187639

Mail: migration@diakonie-luebben.de

Migration advisory office for adults (MBE) in Königs Wusterhausen

Tel: 03375-2108123

Mail: b.blume@migration-luebben.de

Migration advisory center for adults (MBE) in Lübben

Tel: 03546-181009

Mail: k.hessler@migration-luebben.de

Besides, there is an independent advisory for the procedure for granting the right of asylum. In order to be able to answer your questions in a global way, it is usually necessary that you bring your personal ID describing the current legal status of your stay. Moreover, it would be helpful if you bring with you all the bureaucratic and further relevant information (specially in paper form) regarding to your problem. Documents from other institutions you visited and medical certificates are also welcomed. If required, you may also be provided with a language mediator.

Beratungsstelle Königs Wusterhausen

Tel: 03375-2108125

Mail: c.felix@caritas-brandenburg.de

Tel: 03375-2108125

Mail: m.schuster@caritas-brandenburg.de

Tel: 0176-43439014

Mail: k.krueger@migration-luebben.de

Beratungsstelle Lübben

Tel: 03546-1879777

Mail: k.sommerfeld@caritas-goerlitz.de

Tel: 03546-181009

Mail: n.zimina@migration-luebben.de

2.3 Integration courses

Our integration courses are partly language and orientation courses. The topics vary a lot: every-day tasks, job, job interview, profession, shopping, television, radio, child rearing, searching for the right institution, writing E-mails, writing letters, etc. Here you will learn a lot about the German culture, politics, normal life and moral values.

Language courses make a total duration of about 600 hours and orientation courses 100 hours. Other courses with particular topics (specially for women, parents and young adults) are also offered. At the end of the courses there is a free cost exam for all participants.

Who may participate in an integration course?

Integration courses are made for all those people, who are new in Germany and cannot deal with their problems correctly because of their low level of German. Your optional or obligatory participation in an integration course depends from your nationality and your knowledge of the German language.

As an EU-citizen you are invited to participate in an integration course, if you are learning German or just want to improve it. Therefore, you are not obligated. In case you are interested you can apply to it in a federal office for migration and refugees (Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge).

As a not EU-citizen you can also participate. If your German is still not good enough, you might be obligated to take part in an integration course. The final word on this decision lies on the migration office at the moment of preparing your residence permit. If you work or just don't have the time to visit a full-time or a part-time course, you may obtain a dispensation. For people with German nationality and German repatriate there are special rules.

Finding an integration course

In order to find the right institution, you may ask at the migration office, job center or a migration advisory office. An easier way might be using this provided link to search for it on the internet with the Online-Information system WebGIS of BAMF:

https://www.bamf.de/DE/Service/ServiceCenter/BeratungVorOrt/Integrationskurse/integrationskurse_node.html
<http://webgis.bamf.de/BAMF/control;jsessionid=62D8F271B370895CF816522D3089CDF3?C-md=ShowExtendedSearchOne&stepId=1576482752224>

After finding your nearest course provider, you should either visit it or call them. They will tell you which course is better for you and will inform you about the start date of the course.

It is important to mention that attending to such courses have a lot of advantages. First of all, you will learn German faster and easier by attending regularly to class with the very good German teachers. Secondly, you will receive a certification (Zertifikat Integrationskurs), after passing an examination at the end of the course. With this certificate you will be able to apply to a naturalization (citizenship) by a stay of only 7 years instead of 8 years. In our website you will find an overview of all courses and providers:

<https://kursnet-finden.arbeitsagentur.de/kurs/portal/bildungssuchende/migrationshintergrund.do>

2.4 Language courses

Beside the language courses financed by the BAMF, you can take part in our own language courses! The rural district offers many different language courses in the adult education center (Volkshochschule VHS) such as: German courses from level A1 until B2, language courses for mothers and professional jargon courses.

German courses without requirements

In the rooms of the VHS (and the so called „Oberstufenzentrum“) you can find German courses in a semiannual basis between the levels A1 and B2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. Part-time and night class are specially meant for those who want to get better at German by learning in an autodidactic way because of the limited flexibility due to a job or other classes.

For more information about locations, schedules, application deadlines and costs, take a look to the program and to the VHS homepage. Take into count that an application to VHS courses is only online possible.

Low-threshold and language courses close to your house

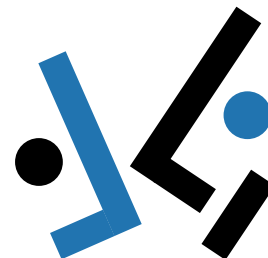
In different parts of the district (for example in old houses or schools) there are additional German courses offered continuously and in relation to current need. The main goal of these courses is the development of values and the first steps into the German language in the community. Therefore, specific topics tend to have a variable importance. These topics could be: daily routines, health care, local orientation, manners and habits, local peculiarities, values and cooperation, kindergarten, school, etc. A focus is set on the verbal communication rather than in grammar or orthography.

The participation in one of these German courses occurs independently of your residence status for everybody. The courses are meant for people in need of protection or who (for reasons like problematic situations, injuries or the taking care of young children) are limited in their mobility. The participation is completely free of charge.

Courses offered currently by the VHS can be found at: <https://vhs-dahme-spreewald.de/index.php?id=2>

Volkshochschule Dahme-Spreewald

Geschäftsstelle Lübben	Haus der VHS
Logenstraße 17	Schulweg 1b
15907 Lübben (Spreewald)	15711 Königs Wusterhausen
Tel.: 03546 20-1060	Tel.: 03375 26-2500
Fax: 03546 20-1059	Fax: 03375 26-2519
E-Mail: vhs@dahme-spreewald.de	



With the online learning portal of the VHS you can also learn German in a fully autodidactic manner:
<https://www.vhs-lernportal.de/wws/9.php#/wws/home.php?sid=85757904287762723558079927993170Sc6cf8c79>

II. LIVING IN DAHME-SPREEWALD

3. Living in the rural district Dahme-Spreewald

One of your first important decision after your arrival will be to either rent or buy a house or an apartment. In contrast to other countries, it is usual in Germany to opt for renting an apartment. There are public utility housing enterprises as well as private providers. Apartments rented by public enterprises are mainly found in cities. Instead, private providers offer living spaces in the whole rural district.

3.1 Apartment-hunting

Searching in the adverts of the most popular daily newspapers like the MAZ (Märkischen Allgemeinen Zeitung) or the Lausitzer Rundschau is a very comfortable way to find the right place for you. Most of them appear in the weekend edition. These newspapers also tend to offer them on the internet. There you can get an overview of the real estate market and even post your own ads. Besides, there are some offers made by real estate agents. Some of the better-known sites are:

<https://www.immowelt.de> or <https://www.immobilienscout24.de> or <https://www.immonet.de>

When looking for accommodation, you can also inquire directly with the various housing associations in the district.

Real state public enterprise (WoBauGe)

Königs Wusterhausen mbH

Fontaneplatz 1

15711 Königs Wusterhausen

Tel: 03375 2590-0

Mail: info@wobaue-kw.de

www.wobaue-kw.de

Wildau's real state public enterprise (WiWo)

Friedrich-Engels-Straße 40

15745 Wildau

Tel: 03375 51960

www.wiwo-wildau.de

Real state public enterprise Bestensee (TAG)

Friedenstraße 22

15741 Bestensee

Tel: 033763 218-10

www.tag-wohnen.de/standorte/bestensee.de

3.2 Calculating the rent

The „Miete“ (rent) is the amount that you pay every month to your landlord. On top of this there might be some additional costs (Nebenkosten) like costs for the garbage disposal, for the building cleaning, the heating, the water supply, among others. Some of these additional costs, like the heating, depend from the individual consume while others are linked to the apartment's size and therefore are annualized. Electricity costs, telephone costs and costs for gas are often not arranged with the landlord but directly with a specific (private) provider. Thus, one must sign a contract with the respective provider. Those costs are paid on monthly as a lump sum (Pauschalsumme). The precise quantification of the costs and its payment occurs yearly.

Save money by saving energy costs

Costs that depend from your level of consumption, like heating, energy and gas can be easily reduced by new consumption rates and so make you save substantial amounts of money. In order to learn how to lower your current consumption rate follow the next link:

<https://www.eon.de/de/eonerleben/energie-sparen-und-umwelt-schuetzen.html>

Lübben's residential building limited (LWG)

Bahnhofstraße 37

15907 Lübben (Spreewald)

Tel: 03546 2740 0

Mail: info@luebbener-wbg.de

www.luebbener-wbg.de

Limited building and administrative society mbH

Luckau

Hauptstraße 24

15926 Luckau

Tel: 03544 5010-0

Fax: 03544 5010-13

Mail: info@wobau-luckau.de

www.wobau-luckau.de

4. Working in Landkreis Dahme-Spreewald

Are you searching for a new job opportunity or perhaps you want to get some orientation for a new career path? Both tend to take a lot of time and effort but do not feel down about it and try approaching to some job centers and employment agencies to get support.

4.1 Employment agencies

Employment agencies inform about working, training, re-training and professional opportunities. They also provide advisory to employers, employees and job seekers. The respective vacancies are nationwide networked. A job seeker, who is ready to move from his or her current home to other part of the country, can obtain an overview of the job offers at a national scale. In case you are still not quite sure about which career you want to pursue, employment agencies offer information through professional information centres. All these services are available regardless of previous monetary contributions. Thus, employment agencies can give you financial support as well as lots of information.

Federal Employment Agency's Web-portal (Internetportale der Bundesagentur für Arbeit):

With the help of the job exchange (JOBBÖRSE) you can not only look for specific wanted ads and educational places but also create, edit and constantly actualize your profile. This way you can describe your entire set of qualifications and skills in an application portfolio and present you online to potential employers.

<http://jobboerse.arbeitsagentur.de/>

BERUFENET is a network for professions. This online-tool of the Federal Employment Agency offers information for about 3200 current and for almost 4800 already archived professions. They are shown in an uniform and schematic structure that contains 60 information fields.

<http://berufenet.arbeitsagentur.de/berufe/index.jsp>

KURSNET is an online portal of the Federal Employment Agency for job training and re-training courses. With around 1,2 Million educational events, KURSNET is doubtless the biggest training and re-training data bank.

<http://kursnet-finden.arbeitsagentur.de/kurs/>

Parallel to these, there are employment agencies with social security purposes in case you lose your job or your employer declares insolvency or you are not allowed to work full-time anymore. In such cases you can receive an unemployment compensation, a reduced hours compensation or a compensation for losses involving insolvency. There are some special considerations in the real state area (Winterbauförderung).

Likewise, there are employment agencies responsible for assistance to job seekers with disabilities. They can help you to find or keep a job. You can apply here for child benefits, as well. Some contact information in the region:

Max-Werner-Straße 5, 15711 Königs Wusterhausen

Opening Hours:

Monday 08:00 - 13:00

Tuesday 08:00 - 13:00

Thursday 08:00 - 13:00, 14:00 - 18:00

Friday 08:00 - 12:30



**Agentur
für Arbeit**

Nationwide Hotline service of the Federal Employment Agency (Bundesamt für Arbeit): 0800 4 5555 00

4.2 Looking for a job: Job centers

Employment agencies were created together with the district's job center. They have both duties regarding social services according to the code of social law (SGB II). The main task of job centres is to help not only with finding a job or training courses but also with offering social services that intend to secure means of subsistence. All the services mentioned above are meant to support employable people to become capable of maintain themselves alone financially in the future. An example is the unemployment compensation II.

Unemployment compensation II

Unemployment compensation II can be given to employable people, who are eligible for benefit and in the age between 15 and the age limit imposed by law (between 65 and 67 years). „Employable“ (Erwerbsfähig) means people who are healthy enough to work for at least 3 hours per day. „Eligible for benefit“ (Leistungsberechtigt) means someone who cannot sustain alone his/her or his/her family's financial demands even with a reasonable occupation. Information about location and reachability of job centres follow:

Königs Wusterhausen

Max-Werner-Straße 5

Brückenstraße 41

Chausseestraße 1, 15745 Wildau

Tel: 03375 279-700

Fax: 03375 527-666

Lübben (Spreewald)

Weinbergstraße 1

Tel: 03546 228-290

Fax: 03546 228-188

Luckau

Bersteallee 21

Tel: 03544 5035-90

Fax: 03544 5035-55

4.3 LDS: education and jobs

The rural district supports a project named „LDS integriert – Ausbildung und Arbeit“(LDS integrated – education and jobs). People looking for trainings or jobs can get informed and advised here. The main objective is the complementary support: optimal use of already established structures, documentation and maintenance of bureaucratic processes for and with the persons involved, supervision of job interviews and counterpart for referencing to employers and employees. This complementary support should aspire to create a sustainable mediation between clients and potential employers or/and educational institutions. This advisory service is gratuitous.

LDS integriert

Kirchplatz 15

15711 Königs Wusterhausen

Tel: 0176 31117269 and 0176 63644919

Bürozeiten: Di + Mi 13.00-18.00 Uhr

Mail: kontakt-LDSintegriert@awo-bb-sued.de

<https://www.facebook.com/arbeitsausbildung.ldsintegriert.1>



© Fotolia/Robert Kneschke

4.4 Who is allowed to work?

In order to be allowed to execute an employment, you must first have a residence permit, that declares so. This is valid for dependent employees as well as for self-employed people. In most of the cases this permission is granted along with the residence permit. In some cases, the Federal Employment Agency must first express its agreement. EU-citizens or people natural from Island, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland do not require any specific document or permission. Up dated information for foreign employees and self-employed are here to find:

www.make-it-in-germany.com

www.erkennung-in-deutschland.de

www.bamf.de

www.arbeitsagentur.de

www.zav.de

4.5 Insurance agencies and taxes

Every employee needs a tax card (Steuerkarte) and a social security card (Sozialversicherungsausweis). A operation control ticket (Lohnsteuerkarte) will be issued at the residents' registration office in the registered principal residence. The social security card is obtained from the pension insurance. In the first job, the employer normally sends the notification and the employee gets his/her social security number and social security ID.

A pre-tax salary is usually specified in the employment contract. Taxes and social costs are deducted from it. Thus, brutto and netto salaries are described in a salary statement (Gehaltabrechnung).

The right to have protection from the insurance agency in case of disease, accidents, unemployment, old-age, invalidation and need of long-term care are all based on your insurance contributions. The contributions paid to the health insurance, unemployment insurance, pension insurance and the nursing insurance are called social costs or social contributions (Sozialabgaben). The amount paid depends from your income. The half is paid by you and the other half by your employer. Your part is automatically deducted from your salary and your employer must send the social contributions to the respective insurance agencies.

In terms of taxes, the situation is very similar. Taxes are automatically deducted from your gross salary and in dependence of the sum you gain. In accordance to your family status there is a classification into 6 different tax classes (Steuerklassen). It mostly depends on your civil status (single or married) and the amount of children and secondary wage earners. Especially when both marriage partners have a salary subjected to taxation, there are some combinations of tax classes that may be profitable to you. Tax class information is included in your operation control ticket.

A reimbursement of tax is subsequently possible. For this you must inform you in a tax advisory office or a wage tax association. Finance offices and tax consultants may also provide you with useful information.

www.finanze.de

www.bundesfinanzministerium.de

4.6 Working as self-employed

You can work as self-employed if you have written in your residence permit „Erwerbstätigkeit gestattet“ (employment allowed) or „Selbständige Tätigkeit gestattet“ (self-employed occupation allowed). Someone excluded from this can only apply for a change if there is a special public interest in it. A residence permit with self-employment purposes can also be granted if there are positive effects for the economy as a result of executing that activity.

4.7 Recognition of qualifications awarded abroad

People who possess foreign professional qualifications can apply for a formal recognition of their diplomas regardless of their nationality or residence status. Information about this legal process can be obtained at an advisory centre of the IQ

Network Brandenburg. From the first steps until the application form and even more can be discussed in one of this advisory centres. They also deal with topics like finding the right qualification, financing the qualification, help for part-time professionals and language support.

Overview of the main tasks made by the IQ Network Brandenburg:

- First advisory regarding recognition processes
- Legal basis and approval of the equivalence determination process
- Preliminary test for the required qualification
- Reference to relevant institutions

For further information: www.brandenburg.netzwerk-iq.de

Information related to where and how to create your application of recognition of equivalence:

<https://anabin.kmk.org/anabin.html>

www.erkennung-in-deutschland.de

<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/de/jobs/erkennung/berufsqualifikationen/>

5. Facilities for kids and teenagers

5.1 Day-care facilities (Kitas)

In this district you may find a varied offer of day care facilities (Kitas). They foster and take care of children from babyhood until school start. Kita's main function lies on supporting parents with their family-profession balance. If you want/need that your son or daughter visits a Kita, please do register your child at your preferred Kita on time. If your kid has been living in another country and will spend most of his future life in Germany, he or she should be put into a Kita as soon as possible in order for him/her to learn the language, make friends, play with other kids and express his feelings about the new country. Knowing the language plays a special role in starting school in Germany.

Which kind of Kitas exist?

Kitas often design their duties in accordance to different concepts. Some of them focus on stimulating your child with musical education or with athletic activities. For an overview on the available Kitas located in this district follow the next link: <https://www.dahme-spreewald.info/sixcms/detail.php/4722>

Kids should receive an individual featured advisory and preschool support. Every child has the right to receive an early infantile assistance in a so called „Tageseinrichtung“ or „Kindertagespflege“ since his/her first birthday, regardless of parents being able to take care of their child at home or not.

This must take long enough to allow the parents to work, get qualifications or seek for a job. A claim for a place is also granted to younger kids during the time needed specified by their parents, if there is a special necessity for it, for example in case of professional life or job hunting. Kids below the age of three may also get a chance, if there are pedagogical, social or familial reasons that require such assistance. These special circumstances will be proved by the authorized youth welfare office.

Children coming from refugees or asylum seeker families have the same rights as all the other kids. The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees stands by the participation in integration courses through assistance to secure an integrating day care, as long as there is no ulterior regional day care facility for people in need of support and kids without compulsory schooling attendance, in accord with §4a IntV (Integrationskursverordnung).

How do you get a place for your kid?

Given that in district Dahme-Spreewald duties regarding provisioning of day-care places are done by the commune, you must first hand out an application in your domicile commune (Stadtverwaltung, Amtsverwaltung, Gemeindeverwaltung). Your legal claim will be checked there and you will be informed about the current day-care offerings. You will have the chance to choose your preferred Kita and then the responsible of the Kita will make a contract (Betreuungsvertrag) with you as person entitled.

How much does it cost?

The sum payed by the parents results from the respective valid parental contribution statute (Elternbeitragssatzung) set by the representative of the day-care institution. According to § 90 paragraph 3 SGB VIII, the parental contribution can be entirely or partially undertaken by the local representative of the public youth welfare, if the costs are too high for the parents. For this purpose, you have to apply at the Youth, Family and Sport Office. You can download the document for application from the district's website or go to an administrative office in your commune.

According to the edict for Kita's cost release (KitaBBV), no parental costs will be imposed, if these are unreasonable. This is the case, if you (as a responsible according to the Code of Social Law II) receive benefits in accordance with chapter 3 and 4 of the Code of Social Law XII (Sozialgesetzbuch), benefits in accord with §§ 2 and 3 of the Asylum Seeker Benefit Law (Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz), a children's allowance according to § 6a of National Children's allowance Law (Bundeskindergeldgesetz) or housing allowance after the Housing Allowance Law (Wohngeldgesetz). Furthermore, parental costs are unreasonable, if the responsible receives a net household income under 20,000.00 EUR per calendar year.

According to § 17a of Brandenburg's KITAS Law (Brandenburgischen Kindertagesstättengesetz) no parental costs are imposed, if the kid is in his last year before entering school.

Youth welfare district Dahme-Spreewald
Mail: jugendamt@dahme-spreewald.de

Tel: 03375 2626-0
Tel: 03546 20-0

5.2 Elementary and secondary school

There is a 10 year long compulsory schooling. In case of an apprenticeship exists obligatory attendance, as well. German school system offers well-founded basic education with a huge variety on continuing education possibilities. Children are given the chance to show their attitudes towards languages, sciences and music from a very early age. This district offers you public and private schools with a wide range of pedagogic profiles.

Every child, who has completed his/her sixth year of age or is going to complete it by the 31st of December, must attend school. Children between the first and the sixth grade have to be registered in the elementary school (Grundschule) corresponding to their domicile.

A secondary school is optional from the seventh grade on. After the elementary school the German school system is divided in three types of school: „Gesamtschule“, „Oberschule“ and „Gymnasium“. Depending on the school concerned, there are different types of school leaving certificates.

Oberschule offers general education from 7th until 10th grade. Students, who end satisfactory the 10th grade, receive a so called „Berufsbildungsreife“ (BB). After approving the 10th grade, they can obtain the BB and a Fachoberschulreife/Real-schulabschluss (FOR).

Gymnasium in Brandenburg leads students through 6 years of school to a Hochschulreife (normally called „Abitur“).

Gesamtschulen offer the possibility of obtaining both: a BB (after completing the 9th grade), and eBB (after taking an extra exam by the end of the 10th grade). A FOR can be obtained, as well. After finishing the 12th grade successfully a student receives an Abitur.

For an overview of all the school types in the rural district Dahme-Spreewald, please click on this link below:

https://www.dahme-spreewald.info/de/Bildung/Schulen_im_LDS/2872.html

5.3 Apprenticeship

Nowadays it is really hard to keep the big picture on the gargantuan offer open for apprenticeships. Besides, these change adding or replacing subjects constantly. In order for you to find the right apprenticeship please visit an employment agency.

What does „duale Berufsausbildung“ (dual apprenticeship) mean?

In a dual apprenticeship you are able to implement your knowledge by working in an enterprise. One or two days a week you will go to your training school to gain the theoretical background that you will put into practice the rest of the week. This kind of apprenticeship are often focused on a specific professional area, for example professions related with commerce, metalworking, electronics, construction or agriculture.

Some training schools give you the chance to catch up on subjects that were unfinished at school, so that you obtain a certificate of secondary education (Hauptschulabschluss) or the school leaving certificate (Mittleren Schulabschluss). Teenagers who leave secondary school after finishing secondary school and do not obtain a training or a working place may attend to a training course and get an occupational training certificate (Berufbildungsreife).

Professional preparation and training education in training schools

Teens searching for a training place without success may attend to a vocational school (Berufsfachschule). There they will be prepared and be taught full-time a specific profession. Vocational schools cover a lot of different professional areas and offer the required practical and theoretical knowledge. At the same time students receive general educational content.

The admission requirements depend on the chosen vocational school. This 3-year-lasting education ends with an examination (Kammerprüfung) and awards a professional training certificate. One- or Two-year-based vocational schools prepare only for professions as an assistance (for example a foreign language assistant). These schools enable teenagers to catch up with their unfinished secondary school education.

Entrance qualifications for technical college and universities

If you have finished your training and/or possess professional experience, you can obtain an advanced technical college entrance qualification (Fachhochschulreife). In case you have also your secondary school certificate and you have aptitudes, you may apply for an higher education entrance qualification (Hochschulreife) and be able to go to an university.

Qualifications of higher education at professional training Gymnasiums

Apprentices who possess a school leaving certificate and are acceptable for a qualification at a higher educational level are allowed to attend to a professional training Gymnasium. It combines professional and general education. During the first year professional training subjects comprehend main part of the schedule. In the next two years trainees are faced with two subjects from which one is directly related with the occupational field concerned. Education at a professional training Gymnasium ends with a higher education entrance qualification (Abitur). Visiting a professional training Gymnasium requires to decide on one of the following vocational fields:

- Economy and administration – Metalworking
- Electronic – Wood engineering – Textile engineering and clothing
- Chemistry, Physics and Biology – Nutrition and food technology
- Social pedagogy/welfare – Health – Communicational, Informational and media technology

Further education at vocational schools (Fachschule)

Trainees who already have professional experience are able to visit a vocational school. After two years an examination (Fachschulexamen) takes place granting a qualification for executive functions and preparedness for self-employment. Along with this, apprentices can aspire for a higher education entrance qualification.

Upper School Centers (Oberstufenzentren)

State-owned Upper School Centres (OSZ) summarize and organize all schools previously mentioned. In case you have doubts or questions you can always approach it.

The Oberstufenzentrum Dahme-Spreewald can be found in Schönefeld, Lübben und Königs Wusterhausen.



Upper School Center Dahme-Spreewald

Abteilung 1
Am Seegraben 84
12529 Schönefeld
Tel: 030 6729331
Fax: 030 67897432
Mail: osz-lds-sc@t-online.de

Upper School Center Dahme-Spreewald

Abteilung 2
Beethovenweg 15
15907 Lübben (Spreewald)
Tel: 03546 201890
Fax: 03546 201891
Mail: osz-lds-ln@t-online.de

Upper School Center Dahme-Spreewald

Abteilung 3
Brückenstraße 40
15711 Königs Wusterhausen
Tel: 03375 26-2860
Fax: 03375 26-2865
Mail: osz-lds-kwh1@t-online.de

You can also find many different career paths at OSZ Dahme-Spreewald through the internet:

<https://osz.dahme-spreewald.info/osz/de/Bildungsgaenge/41640.html>

Training schools follow the theoretical part of the education according to the BBiG or the Handicrafts Regulations Act (Handwerksordnung). Apprentices are registered by their apprenticeship employer at the OSZ. Mostly, rotating classes take place which means two weeks of practical formation at the training company followed by one week focused on the theory at the OSZ. For more detailed information, please take a look at the rotating classes schedule at:

<https://osz.dahme-spreewald.info/sixcms/detail.php/41643>

Vocational school's education is an ideal place for students who have left high school and have not found any training place by the beginning of the next school year. <https://osz.dahme-spreewald.info/sixcms/detail.php/51047>

City college provides knowledge and skills that are broadened by general education. At the end it gives you an advanced technical college entrance qualification (Fachhochschulreife). <https://osz.dahme-spreewald.info/sixcms/detail.php/41644>

Professional training Gymnasium is a modern version of a typical Gymnasium. It provides you a higher education entrance qualification (Hochschulreife). Students may finish their Abitur in 3 years after 10th grade.

https://osz.dahme-spreewald.info/osz/de/Bildungsgaenge/Berufliches_Gymnasium/51045.html

Vocational school for social pedagogy provides you part-time teaching to become a childcare worker. It takes 3 years with an in-company training every 2 weekdays and a probation period of 6 months. At the end you get an advanced technical college entrance qualification allowing you to study at any technical college nationwide.

https://osz.dahme-spreewald.info/osz/de/Bildungsgaenge/Fachschule_Sozialpaedagogik/51059.html

Second-chance colleges

This type of higher education suits people who have not obtained the desired school certificate and still want it. An already finished professional training and/or professional experience are required. If these requirements are filled, a night-gymnasium (Abendgymnasium), a night-secondary school (Abendrealschule) or a so called „Kolleg“, are available. In most German federal states there exists the possibility of obtaining a Haupt- or Realschulabschluss or an Abitur through a so called „Nichtschülerprüfung“.

Schule des Zweiten Bildungsweges Dahme-Spreewald

Funkerberg 26

15711 Königs Wusterhausen

Tel: 03375 211907

Fax: 03375 211963

Mail: buero@zbw-lds.de

<https://www.zbw-lds.de>

5.4 Studying in Dahme-Spreewald

Technical University of applied sciences TUAS Wildau

Technische Hochschule Wildau (TH Wildau) is an innovative and forward-looking technical university with a campus located at the green south of Berlin. It possesses its own train station and many contacts with practice oriented universities and international research institutions.

Students can choose between Informatics, engineering, natural sciences, law, administration, economy and management and also between a full-time (vollzeit), dual (dual) or extra-occupational (Berufsbegleitend) study program. University's main focus lies on Engineering, economic and computer science careers.

TUAS Wildau's Welcome Center

The Welcome Center is in charge of providing professional and verbal skills to refugees as preparation for their studies in Germany.

Aside from linguistic and professional preparation Welcome Center's personnel offers you a vast support regarding questions on topics like every-day university life and integration in the university's society before and during your study at the TUAS Wildau. Besides, it offers you private coaching and a wide range of complementary courses in different subjects:

- Language courses (Sprachkurse) specially designed for refugees (taught consecutively, several times per year)
- DSH-Preparation Course Level B2, DSH in Language Center (Sprachenzentrum), Certificate: DSH-1, DSH-2 or DSH-3.
- DSH- Vorbereitungskurs C1 - DSH im Sprachenzentrum, Abschluss: DSH-Prüfung
- Mixed course with idiomatic and professional preparation program (WFY),
Certificates: DSH and professional admission examination.

International Office

Akademisches Auslandsamt TH Wildau
Hochschulring 1, 15745 Wildau
Tel.: 03375 508 197
Mail: angelika.schubert@th-wildau.de
Hall 13, Raum 034

Student Affairs Office

Studentische Angelegenheiten TH Wildau
Hochschulring 1, 15745 Wildau
Tel.: 03375 508 180
Mail: silja.kuenzel@th-wildau.de
Hall 13, Room 022

Academic Orientation and Advisory Office

Studienorientierung und Beratung TH Wildau
Hochschulring 1, 15745 Wildau
Tel.: 03375 508 688
Mail: studienorientierung@th-wildau.de
Haus 13, Raum 224



Welcome Center

Projektleitung Welcome Center für Geflüchtete
Mail: kgebhardt@th-wildau.de

Projektkoordination Welcome Center für Geflüchtete
Mail: benita.grafe-bourdais@th-wildau.de

Projektkoordination-Assistent & Administration Welcome Center für Geflüchtete
Mail: ahmadi@th-wildau.de

Welcome Center für Geflüchtete / for refugees
Haus 13, Raum 205/Hall 13 Room 205
Tel.: 03375 508 683, Mail: welcome@th-wildau.de
Technische Hochschule Wildau
Hochschulring 1, 15745 Wildau

5.5 Recognition of professional qualifications

In case you have already a professional qualification or/and a finished professional training awarded abroad (for example in your home country), you can go to Brandenburg's Certificate Recognition Office in order to validate it. This institution also validates foreign certifications obtained at school or obtained in other parts of Germany (another German state). This is the right place for you if you have your domicile in Brandenburg OR you inform in written form about where in Germany you have applied for an occupation, a professional training or a study program.

Staatliches Schulamt Cottbus

Blechenstraße 1, 03046 Cottbus,
Tel: 0355 4866-418
Mail: Katrin.Rimpel@schulaemter.brandenburg.de

Further information about the recognition of qualifications – IQ Netzwerk

In order to be able to work in Germany it might be necessary to have a formal recognition (only necessary for certain professions), if the certification was granted abroad.

The precise cost and place for your recognition process depends on the profession involved. In order for you to know where to go, how much you would have to pay or if you have to do a recognition process at all, please do not hesitate and come to one of our advisory centres:

Recognition and Qualification Advisory Königs Wusterhausen

Handwerkskammer Cottbus, Außenstelle Königs Wusterhausen

Cottbuser Straße 53a, 15711 Königs Wusterhausen

Tel: 0355 7835-177, Mobil: 0160 9727 8256

Mail: kocur@hwk-cottbus.de



**Handwerkskammer
Cottbus**

5.6 Adult Education Center (Volkshochschule)

Adult Education Center (VHS) is open for diversified interests. Many citizens from our district learn here another language. Besides, there are innumerable offers related with art, culture, creative design, health, training opportunities (for example computing, administration, etc.) and social-political education. Everyone interested can participate. There is no general entrance requirement or limitation.

VHS are very important institutions specially for migrants/immigrants. There they can learn German as foreign language at all levels or even initiate an alphabetization course. According to the Immigration Law, all VHS are to be seen as provider of integration courses.

Several events are generally planned to take place at times when working people are usually free, for example evenings, at night or during the weekend. For those who are not employees, there are some events in the daytime, as well.

Given that VHS are financed by the state, most events have comparatively low costs and many participants may obtain a discount for social reasons. For more information: <https://www.vhs-dahme-spreewald.de/>

6. Health care services

Dahme-Spreewald dispose to you a wide range of hospitals, clinics, medical practice, emergency services and special health institutions. Modern therapies will simplify your everyday life. People insured with the statutory health insurance (gesetzlichen Krankenversicherung) can choose their own doctor.

Institutions for medical services

In case you are looking for a doctor or even a specialist, you can use the following link from Brandenburg's Medical Association: <https://www.laekb.de/PublicNavigation/arzt/arztsuche/>

Or this one from Brandenburg's Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians:

<https://arztsuche.kvbb.de/ases-kvbb/ases.jsf>

Are you looking for a doctor who can speak in your mother tongue?

You can find him at the link from Brandenburg's Medical Association:

<https://www.laekb.de/PublicNavigation/arzt/arztsuche/>

Hospitals and clinics in the district

Berlin-Brandenburg's region is one of the mayor medical centres in Germany. Aside from all the big clinics you can find in Berlin and Potsdam, you can also attend to clinics and hospitals located in this district:

Klinikum Dahme-Spreewald GmbH

Achenbach Krankenhaus
Köpenicker Straße 29, 15711 Königs Wusterhausen
Tel: 03375 288-0
Mail: info@klinikum-ds.de

Spreewaldklinik Lübben

Schillerstraße 29, 15907 Lübben
Tel: 03546 75-0
Mail: info@klinikum-ds.de
<https://www.klinikum-ds.de/unsere-fachabteilungen/>

Asklepios Fachklinikum Lübben

Luckauer Straße 17, 15907 Lübben
Tel: 03546 29-0, Fax: 03546 29-242
Mail: luebben@asklepios.com
<https://www.asklepios.com/luebben/>

Asklepios Fachklinikum Teupitz

Buchholzer Str. 21, 15755 Teupitz
Tel: 033766 66-0, Fax: 033766 62-241
Mail: teupitz@asklepios.com
<https://www.asklepios.com/teupitz/>

Evangelisches Krankenhaus Luckau gGmbH

Berliner Straße 24, 15926 Luckau
Tel: 03544 58-0
<https://www.diakonissenhaus.de/gesundheit/evangelisches-krankenhaus-luckau/>

Reha-Zentrum Lübben

Fachklinik für Orthopädie und Onkologie
Kliniken Professor Dr. Schedel GmbH
Postbautenstraße 50, 15907 Lübben
Tel: 03546 238-0, Fax: 03546 238-700
<https://www.rehazentrum.com/>

Fontane-Klinik

Psychosomatische Fachklinik Berlin.Brandenburg
Fontanestraße 5, 15749 Mittenwalde OT Motzen
Tel: 0337 6986-0, Fax: 0337 6986-104
Mail: info@fontane-klinik.de
<https://www.fontane-klinik.de/startseite.html>

7. Social Engagement

Voluntary engagement can go from neighbourly friendship and support at social and health related tasks to being active in institutions focused on culture, urban development, climate protection, sport, youth, civil protection and disaster control.

Honorary engagement means cooperating actively and assume responsibility for the overall social welfare. Here you can implement some of your conceptions about what a good society really means.

Mensch Luckau e. V.

Mail: info@mensch-luckau.de

<http://www.mensch-luckau.de/>

Initiative WIND -

Willkommen im nördlichen Dahmeland, Zeuthen

E-Mail: kontakt@wind-hilft.de

www.wind-hilft.de

Forum Lübben/Netzwerk Miteinander für Lübben

E-Mail: forumluebben@gmx.de

8. Debt counselling

In case you have debts and you think you cannot deal with them correctly, this district offers you advisory offices regarding this topic, too. Here an expert will take a look at your specific case in order to find for and with you the best possible solution. The next contacts may become handy to you:

Diakonisches Werk des Kirchenkreises Lübben e. V.

Beratungsstelle für Überschuldete

Geschwister-Scholl-Straße 12

15907 Lübben (Spreewald)

Tel./Fax: 03546 180958

Initiative “Willkommen in KW“, Königs Wusterhausen

E-Mail: willkommen-in-kw@web.de

Initiative “Neue Nachbarn Wildau”

E-Mail: kontakt@neue-nachbarn-wildau.de

kune e. V.

E-Mail: arbeitskreisbestensee@gmail.com

DRK Kreisverband Dahme-Spreewald

Beratungsstelle für Überschuldete

Erich-Weinert-Straße 46

15711 Königs Wusterhausen

Tel./Fax: 03375 218971

III. Transportation, culture and leisure facilities

9. Across Dahme-Spreewald

9.1 Public transportation (ÖPNV)

Please use our public transportation offers! Almost every possible destiny within the district can be easily reached with public transports. In contrast to the north of the district where the train (S-Bahn) goes from Berlin till Königs Wusterhausen, you can mostly use „Regionalbahn“ and regional express and arrive at places even beyond the district. Between cities and communes there is a specific institution in charge, named Regionale Verkehrsgesellschaft Dahme-Spreewald (RVS). It possesses about 50 Bus routes and more than 930 bus stops. RVS has combined itself with another 37 transport companies in Berlin and Brandenburg to create the Verkehrsverbund (VBB).

More information about road maps, timetables and VBB-Tickets (for example Mobilitätsticket Brandenburg or Sozialticket LDS) are easy to find by following the next link www.rvs-lds.de or www.vbb.de

Please consider downloading the VBB mobile phone App. It will help wonders. We looking forward to have you as a new passenger soon.



© Regionale Verkehrsgesellschaft Dahme-Spreewald mbH

9.2 Using the bike

Using the bike for short distances in the city is a very good option. In the more rural regions there are also many potential routs for bikes. In case you are need more information before hitting the road, please approach one of the many Tourist information centres or administration buildings of the district. Therefor the Brandenburg-App is very beneficial. It can be downloaded for free with an iPhone or an Android smartphone.

Please do not forget that, just like with a car, there are many driving rules and technical requirements linked with the use of a bike (right illumination, brakes, etc.). Kids can learn about driving bike rules at school or at a police station.

9.3 Driving your car

You are allowed to drive using your foreign driver's license only for 6 months since your arrival. Afterwards you will need a German driving license! In a driving license bureau (Führerscheinbüro) you can get informed about the necessity of either having your driving license rewritten or if you will have to take a new driving exam and get a new German license. Moreover, it might be necessary to bring an official translation of your document. Your foreign driving license must still be valid at the time of your application.

In the standard case you will not have to take a new examination, if your driving license was issued in a EU member state or in Iceland, Norway or Liechtenstein. Take into consideration that your application for a rewritten foreign driving license has to be made in less than 3 years since your arrival.

In case that your license was issued in another country outside the EU (Drittstaat), you will have to do a theoretical and practical exam in accordance with a driving school. Nevertheless, you must not necessarily take the (theoretical and practical) classes that are meant for beginners.

For your license processes you can use the next contacts:

Landkreis Dahme-Spreewald

Straßenverkehrsamt
Fahrerlaubnisbehörde
Fontaneplatz 10
15711 Königs Wusterhausen
Tel: 03375 26-2678

Untere Straßenverkehrsbehörde
Weinbergstraße 1
15907 Lübben (Spreewald)
Tel: 03546 20-1920
Mail: strassenverkehrsamt@dahme-spreewald.de

You can pay for your German license right at the residents' registration office (for address go to chapter 3). The registration or deregistration of a car or motorcycle is made at the road traffic licensing department (Straßenverkehrsamt) of your district (for directions go to chapter 9.3).

10. Culture and Free time

Regardless of driving with your bike, going by foot or practicing some aquatic sport, the district Dahme-Spreewald provides numerous activities. An overview of many possible recreational options can be found at:

https://www.dahme-spreewald.info/de/Tourismus/Dahme-Spreewald_entdecken/Freizeitangebote_von_A_-_Z/305.html

If you are more a museum person, you can go visit some of our museums in Dahme-Spreewald. Here an overview of them:

<https://www.dahme-spreewald.info/sixcms/detail.php/317>

You can find more about the district's main events in the following link:

<https://www.dahme-spreewald.info/de/Aktuelles/Veranstaltungskalender/191.html>

11. Sport

Sport plays a key role when talking about integration. It is very common that people from different nations come together to play or train. The so called „Kreissportbund Dahme-Spreewald“ (KSB) is the umbrella organisation of 179 local sports clubs with 20 404 members. These figures make KSB the biggest civil organisation in the whole region.

Our selection of sports is large. From A like in „Aerobic“ till W like in „wander“ 52 different sport clubs with 550 licensed professional trainers offer you a high quality athletic experience. The so called „Kreissportjugend“ is the organisation in charge of sports for young people. It belongs to the „Kreissportbundes Dahme-Spreewald e. V.“.

An overview of all sport clubs right here:

<https://ksb-lds.de/sport-in-lds/sportvereine-in-lds/sportvereine-in-lds.html>

Kreissportbund Dahme-Spreewald e. V.

Weg am Krankenhaus 2

15711 Königs Wusterhausen

Tel: 03375 5670697

Mail: info@ksb-lds.de



IV. LONG-TERM INTEGRATION

12. Further legal information about your stay in Dahme-Spreewald

The aliens department (in German “Ausländerbehörde”) is the institution in charge of all issues regarding immigration. If you come to Germany with a foreign nationality, the main topics to clarify will be:

- Which nationality or which Visa do you possess?
- How long are you staying in Germany?

12.1 Right of residence

Residence Law (AufenthG) rules the entry, stay, occupation and the end of stay of foreigners from third countries. EU-Citizen have the right of free movement inside the European Union. However, this liberalness is limited. EU foreigners’ set of rights and obligations regarding entry and stay in the country are ruled into detailed in the so called „Freizügigkeitsgesetz/EU“. Every foreigner must have a residence permit without exemption. Residence Law recognizes the following types of residence permits:

- Visa (Visum)
- Residence Permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis)
- EU Blue Card (Blaue Karte EU)
- ICT-Card (ICT-Karte)
- Mobil-ICT-Card (Mobiler-ICT-Karte)
- Settlement Permit (Niederlassungserlaubnis)
- Long-Term Residence Permit (Erlaubnis zum Daueraufenthalt – EU)

Duration of your stay

All the requirements for a stay of no more than 90 days within 180 days in a Schengen-State (Germany is a Schengen-State) are ruled by the EU's Law. Short stays (for example with touristic or commercial purposes or to visit friends or family) are possible.

While Settlement permits and Long-term Residence Permits are given for an indefinite period of time, all other types of residence permits are temporary. An extension is possible, if the requirements that were fulfilled at the first issuance are still fulfilled. In case of extensions it is also usual to determine if the foreigner has complied with his/her obligation of participating in an integration course.

Residence purposes

The residence permit is given primarily for some specific residence purposes.

The Residence Law distinguishes the following:

- Education (§§ 16-17 AufenthG)
- Employment (§§ 18 ff. AufenthG)
- Civil, humanitarian or political reasons (§§ 22-26, 104a, 104b AufenthG)
- Family relocation (§§ 27-36 AufenthG)
- Special Residence Rights (§§ 37-38a AufenthG)

Every one of them has their very own requirements.

The Blue Card is ideal for academic skilled labour and it comes with a lot of discounts. With a Blue Card making the family moving in is facilitated. Furthermore, one can stay abroad for as much as 12 months (for other types of residence permit it is max. 6 months).

ICT-Cards and Mobile ICT-Cards are meant for transferred specialist, trainees and managers with intern entrepreneurial purposes. These are given to foreign workers who will be working for a limited time in a foreign company's business establishment located in Germany.

Settlement Permits and EU Long-term Residence Permits are provided for many different reasons which allow a treatment to foreigners as if they were Germans, for example in terms of labour chances and social benefits. These are mainly described in § 9 and §§ 9a-9c AufenthG. They present exemptions on their own, for example for high-skilled workers or recognized refugees.

The fundamental difference between these two residence permits is that Long-term Residence Permits allow you to visit other EU member states.

Employment

Residence permits enable you to work, if this complies with the AufenthG or the Residence Permit declares this clearly in your ID-Card. Owners of a Settlement Permit are generally allowed to work in Germany.

Competence

Visas are provided by institution representing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. An overview of these institutions can be found here: <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/blob/199314/31aa23df515fd8c1af9862b10f5d8436/dtauslandsvertretungen-liste-data.pdf>

All the other residence permits are issued by the local Aliens Department concerned, which make them the first contact person for any questions regarding a specific case.

Landkreis Dahme-Spreewald

Ordnungsamt

Schulweg 1b

15711 Königs Wusterhausen

Tel: 03375 26 26-0, Fax: 03375 26-2108

E-Mail: abh@dahme-spreewald.de

Consultation hours:

Tuesday 08:00-12:00 and 13:00-18:00

Thursday 08:00-12:00 and 13:00-16:00

Further Informationen about Residence Law:

http://www.zuwanderung.de/ZUW/DE/Zuwanderung_geschieht_jetzt/FAQ/faq_node.html

Or: Make it in Germany – Information portal of the Federal Government for foreign skilled labour

<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/de/ueber-das-portal/make-it-in-germany/>

12.2 Naturalization

Whoever wants to live permanently in Germany can obtain a German Citizenship. Applicants must be older than 16 years old to fill the required documents without parental advisory. For more information, please contact the Aliens Department.

Landkreis Dahme-Spreewald

Ordnungsamt

Schulweg 1b, 15711 Königs Wusterhausen

Tel: 03375 26 26-0, Fax: 03375 26-2108

Mail: abh@dahme-spreewald.de

V. Addresses and contacts

Emergency numbers and emergency services

Fire brigade and rescue service	112
Police	110
Police main guard KW - Köpenicker Straße 26	03375 270-0
Police main guard Schönefeld - Bohnsdorfer Chaussee 30	030 63480-0
Police main guard Lübben - Bahnhofstraße 31	03546 77-0
Police main guard Luckau - Rathaus über Leitstelle Lausitz (not always available)	0355 6320

Emergency in case of health hazards

Consumer Protection Agency and LDS agriculture	03546 20-1618 or 03546 20-1619
LDS Public Health Department	03375 26-2145
Medical distress call	
Lübben Hospital	03546 750
Accident and emergency department	03546 75229
Königs Wusterhausen Hospital	03375 288-0
KW Accident and emergency department	03375 288-300
Luckau Hospital	03544 58-200
Luckau Accident and emergency department	03544 58-182
Medical on-call duty	112
General medicine doctor on-call duty	116 117

Reachability:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: From 13:00 till 07:00 of the respective next day.

Tuesday and Thursday: From 19:00 till 07:00 of the respective next day.

Saturday, Sunday and holidays 24 hours respectively.

More emergency numbers

Emergency related with poison (24 h)	030 19240
Emergency related with drugs	030 19237
Crisis helpline (evangelical)	0800 1110111
Crisis helpline (catholic)	0800 1110222
Emergency related with kids and teenagers (Monday – Friday from 15:00 till 19:00)	0800 1110333
Medical Children Protection Hotline www.kinderschutzhotline.de	0800 1921000
Women Protection Königs Wusterhausen E-Mail: frauenschutzwohnung@dahme-spreewald.de Postamt 1, Postfach 1236, 15702 Königs Wusterhausen	033763 214410

Crime victims (Weisser Ring)

Nationwide, cost-free	116 006
Königs Wusterhausen E-Mail: WeisserRing-KW@t-online.de	0151 55164700

Advisory in Landkreis Dahme-Spreewald

Migration agent
Frau Antje Jahn
Landkreis Dahme-Spreewald
Reutergasse 12
15907 Lübben (Spreewald)
Tel: 03546 20-1997
Mail: antje.jahn@dahme-spreewald.de

Educational coordinator for immigrants
Frau Veronika Gebel
Landkreis Dahme-Spreewald
Reutergasse 12
15907 Lübben (Spreewald)
Telefon: 03546 20-1972
Mail: veronika.gebel@dahme-spreewald.de

Language and integration courses

VHS Dahme-Spreewald
Schulweg 1b, 15711 Königs Wusterhausen
Tel: 03375 262527
Mail: vhs@dahme-spreewald.de

bbw Akademie	03375 5298548
FAW	03361 760170
Zukunftswerkstatt (future workshop)	03375 525230
Hiller Bildung	03361 693917
SBH Suedost	03375-52435801
TH Wildau	03375 508684
Second-Chance School	0177 9148705

Advisory for immigrants

Diakonisches Werk des Kirchenkreises Lübben e. V.
Geschwister-Scholl-Straße 12
15907 Lübben
Tel: 03546 187639
Mail: Migration@diakonie-luebben.de

Welfare work as advisory for immigrants

Caritasverband für das Erzbistum Berlin e. V.
Region Brandenburg Ost
Maxim-Gorki-Straße 6/7
15711 Königs Wusterhausen
Tel: 03375 2108125
Fax: 03375 2108124
Mail: Fluechtlingsberatung-koenigs-wusterhausen@caritas-brandenburg.de

Migration services for youngsters (Jugendmigrationsdienst – JMD)

Diakonisches Werk des Kirchenkreises Lübben e. V.

Geschwister-Scholl-Straße 12

15907 Lübben

Tel: 03546 187639

Fax: 03546 181014

Mail: Migration@diakonie-luebben.de

„LDS integriert - Ausbildung und Arbeit“ Project

Mediation and help in the job search and training place search

Mail: kontakt-LDSintegriert@awo-bb-sued.de

Stellwerk 8

Social advisory and meeting place

Bahnhofsvorplatz 8

15711 Königs Wusterhausen

Tel: 03375 2868870

Fax: 03375 2868869

Mail: s8@dsdlds.de

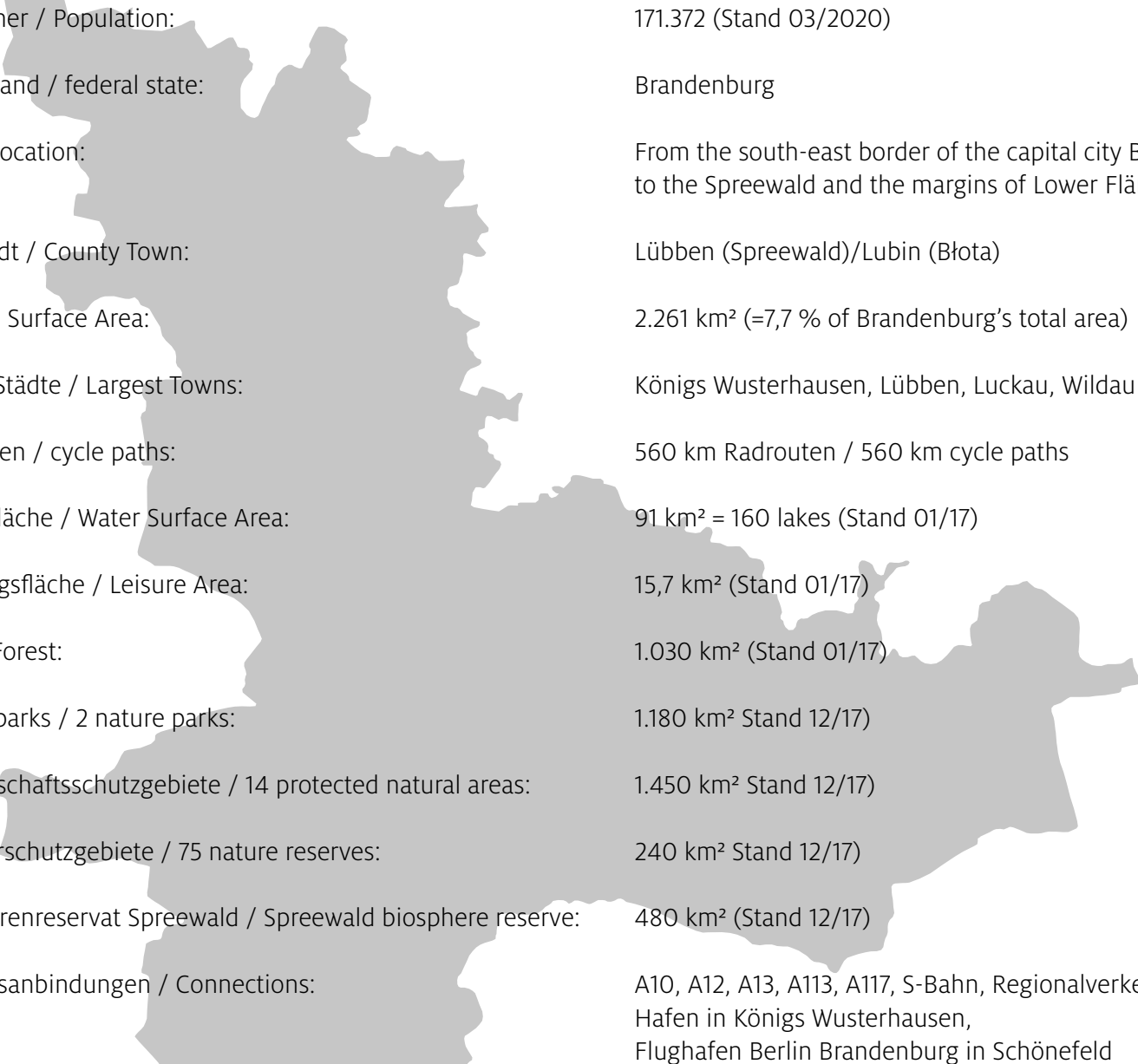
More Links:

<http://ankommenapp.de/APP/DE/Startseite/startseite-node.html>

<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com>

<https://www.anererkennung-in-deutschland.de/tools/berater/de/berater/start>

<https://anabin.kmk.org/anabin.html>



Einwohner / Population:	171.372 (Stand 03/2020)
Bundesland / federal state:	Brandenburg
Lage / Location:	From the south-east border of the capital city Berlin to the Spreewald and the margins of Lower Fläming
Kreisstadt / County Town:	Lübben (Spreewald)/Lubin (Błota)
Fläche / Surface Area:	2.261 km ² (=7,7 % of Brandenburg's total area)
Größte Städte / Largest Towns:	Königs Wusterhausen, Lübben, Luckau, Wildau
Radrouten / cycle paths:	560 km Radrouten / 560 km cycle paths
Wasserfläche / Water Surface Area:	91 km ² = 160 lakes (Stand 01/17)
Erholungsfläche / Leisure Area:	15,7 km ² (Stand 01/17)
Wald / Forest:	1.030 km ² (Stand 01/17)
2 Naturparks / 2 nature parks:	1.180 km ² Stand 12/17)
14 Landschaftsschutzgebiete / 14 protected natural areas:	1.450 km ² Stand 12/17)
75 Naturschutzgebiete / 75 nature reserves:	240 km ² Stand 12/17)
Biosphärenreservat Spreewald / Spreewald biosphere reserve:	480 km ² (Stand 12/17)
Verkehrsanbindungen / Connections:	A10, A12, A13, A113, A117, S-Bahn, Regionalverkehr, Hafen in Königs Wusterhausen, Flughafen Berlin Brandenburg in Schönefeld

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