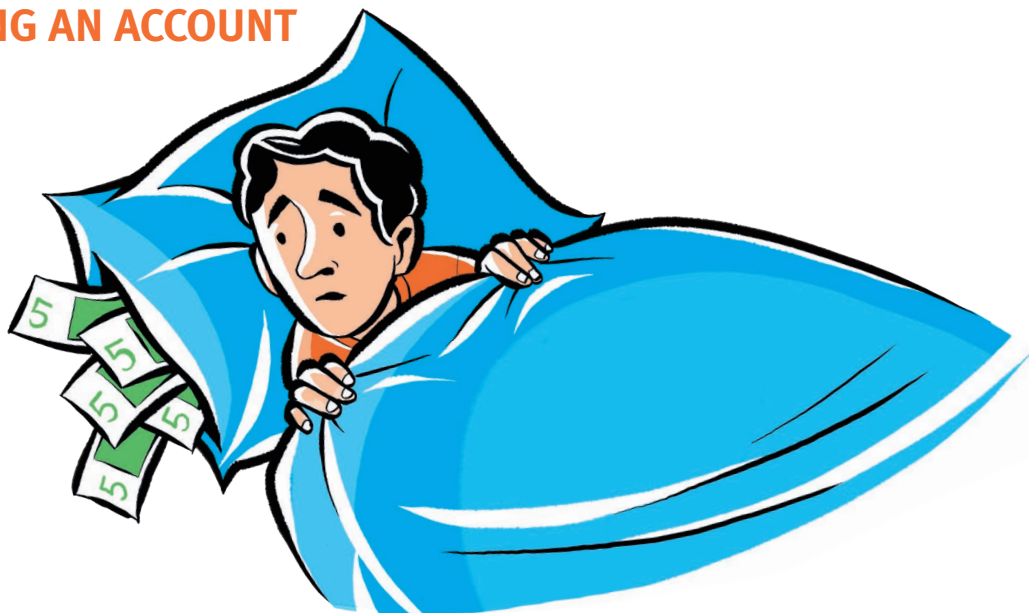


CHECKLIST

BEFORE OPENING AN ACCOUNT



? WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO HAVE A BANK ACCOUNT IN GERMANY?

- A bank account is important in order to take part in social life
- To pay bills: Many things are paid for through a bank account: e.g. rent, electricity, gas
- To receive money, e.g. wages, salary, social benefits
- Orders on the Internet
- Money can be kept safe in the bank

A bank account is essential nowadays!

? WHERE CAN YOU GET AN ACCOUNT?

- Every bank must offer you an account!
- This is called a Basic Account
- You are free to choose the bank

? WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR?

- The bank should be nearby and it should be easy to access cash. Where is the nearest cash machine, for example?
- The bank account fees can also differ. You should compare bank fees

? WHAT DO YOU NEED TO TAKE WITH YOU TO THE BANK?

- Your personal information, such as your name, date of birth, place of residence, place of birth.
- You also need proof of identity, such as a valid identification card
- The certificate of registration

If you do not have an identity card:

- Certification of the suspension of deportation
- Arrival certification
- Residence permit

? DID YOU UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING PROPERLY?

- Don't get nervous! Keep asking until you have understood everything.
- It can be helpful to have an interpreter with you if you do not speak much German.
- It is always better to repeat your questions if you did not understand something.



CHECKLIST

BEFORE OPENING AN ACCOUNT

DO YOU ALSO WANT A CREDIT CARD?

- A credit card is not essential! In most cases, you can manage very well without one.
- However, when making online purchases, for example, it can be useful to have a credit card. If you do not have a regular income, you will probably only get a prepaid credit card. You have to top this up with money first.
- We advise against ordering a credit card online. The risk of falling into the hands of untrustworthy services is too high.
- You can also get a prepaid credit card at your local bank. Here, you will be able to speak with a personal contact.

Note: Recently, untrustworthy providers have been calling potential customers. The caller might begin a conversation, for example, by telling you that you have won a credit card. A simple “yes” (e.g. to confirm your name) is enough for you to receive a payment demand without having received a credit card. If you then refuse to pay, you will quickly receive a letter from a debt collection agency and might get into trouble. You should terminate such unsolicited phone calls as quickly as possible. This is not impolite, but rather means you are protecting yourself from trouble and unnecessary costs.

ARE YOU UNSURE?

Get independent and neutral advice! You can get further information from your Consumer Advice Centre (Verbraucherzentrale). www.verbraucherzentrale.de

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