



The Red-White-Red Card and the Blue Card-EU Criteria-guided immigration of qualified workers

A. Red-white-red card

The red-white-red card is a residence title for third country nationals with certain qualifications. The main requirement is a **matching job offer in Austria**. The red-white-red card binds the qualified worker to his employer for at least 21 months. After 2 years it is possible to change into the free labour market.

4 different groups of workers are eligible for the red-white-red card:

1. Personnel with particularly high qualification

Persons are considered particularly highly qualified if they achieve at least **70 out of 100 points** on a scoring system (see **Annex A**). If a person with particularly high qualification finds an occupation appropriate to this qualification, the red-white-red card may be granted.

Highly qualified persons without a job offer also may apply for a visa D at the competent Austrian embassy if they can provide evidence of this qualification. If this visa D is granted, the person may enter Austria for 6 months to search for employment.

2. Other key personnel

Persons who achieve at least **55 out of 90 points** on a scoring system (see **Annex C**) may obtain the red-white-red card, as they are considered other key personnel. Prerequisite is an offer of employment.

Key personnel under the age of 30 have to earn at least **€ 2.775,00** gross per month, key personnel over 30 at least **€ 3.330,00**. The red-white-red card may be denied if persons with the same qualification who may be placed in this position are registered with the Public Employment Service Austria (AMS).

3. University graduates who studied in Austria

University graduates (bachelor, master or PHD studies) who have found an occupation corresponding to their level of education may be granted the red-white-red card if their monthly gross income amounts to at least **€ 2.497,50**.

4. Personnel for occupations with skilled labour shortage

There is a yearly regulation containing a list of occupations with skilled labour shortage. Persons who achieve at least **55 out of 90 points** on a scoring system (see **Annex B**) and have been trained in one of the listed occupations may obtain the red-white-red card. Prerequisite is an employment in this occupation for a wage in accordance with the Collective Agreement or the remuneration otherwise customary in this sector. Link to the list of occupations with skilled labour shortage:

Occupations with labour shortage in 2021:

1. Graduates in power engineering
2. Technicians with a higher level of training (engineer) for power engineering technology
3. Agricultural Equipment
4. Black toppers
5. Technicians with a higher Level of training (engineer) for data processing
6. Graduate engineers for data processing
7. Special(ist) power engineers
8. Technicians with a higher level of training (engineer) for mechanical engineering
9. Graduate mechanical engineers
10. Roofers
11. Graduate nurses
12. Construction joiners
13. Physicians
14. Graduates in weak-current and telecommunications engineering
15. Train driver, stoker
16. Concrete fitters
17. Pipe installers, pipe fitters
18. Electrical installers, electrical fitters
19. Special graduate engineers
20. Carpenters
21. Special fitters
22. Metal turners
23. Cost accountant
24. Floor and Wall Tilers
25. Welders, cutting torch operators
26. Milling machinists
27. Specialist technicians for mechanical engineering
28. Ophthalmic opticians
29. Technicians with a higher education (engineer)for civil engineering
30. Graduate engineers - special professions
31. Technicians with a higher level of training (engineer) for technical chemistry, chemical engineer
32. Special floor layers
33. Motor Mechanics
34. Special fitters
35. Retailer and seller of iron and metal goods, machines, household and kitchen appliances
36. Payroll accountants
37. Building plumbers
38. Pavers
39. Construction and furniture joiners
40. Special technicians for low voltage engineering and communication engineering
41. Varnishers
42. Special(ist) technicians for data processing
43. Bricklayers
44. Qualified healthcare assistant
45. Healthcare assistant

In certain federal provinces (excluding Vienna and Burgenland) there are also regional labour shortage lists!

B. Blue card – EU

This residence title is granted to persons with at least tertiary qualification after a three years' programme, if they have found an employment appropriate to their education with a monthly gross income of at least **€ 4.684,00** and if no persons with the same qualification are registered as job-seekers with the Public Employment Service Austria. The blue card – EU will be issued for 2 years and binds the employee to a certain employer. After 2 years it is possible to change to the free labour market if the employee was employed for at least 21 months.

C. Procedural provisions on red-white-red card and blue card -EU:

Applications for a red-white-red card or blue card-EU are filed at the competent Austrian embassy abroad. If a qualified worker is already legally staying in Austria (visa-free residence, visa D for searching work or residence title for university graduates), the application may also be filed in Austria at the competent Immigration, Citizenship and Registry Offices (in Vienna: Municipal Department 35).

Applicant is the qualified worker him-/herself, a written declaration by the future employer has to be attached. The application may also be filed in Austria by the future employer. The procedure may take a maximum period of 8 weeks.

D. Family members

Family members (spouses, minor, unmarried children) receive a “red-white-red card - plus” with free access to the labour market. Family members of workers from group 2,3 and 4 have to prove their knowledge of German of level A1 already at the moment of filing the application (exempt are minors younger than 14 or persons with certain previous knowledge or school-leaving certificates).

Admission criteria for personnel with particularly high qualification according to § 12(Annex A)

Criteria:	Points
Special qualifications or skills	Maximum number of creditable points: 40
Completion of a course of studies at a tertiary educational institution lasting at least four years	20
- for the subjects Mathematics, Information Technology, Natural Sciences or Technology (MINT subjects).	30
-with habilitation or equal qualification (e.g. PhD)	40
Annual gross salary of previous year from an executive position with a company listed on the stock exchange or with a company on the activities or business field of which the foreign trade office has made a positive statement:	
50 000 to 60 000 Euros	20
60 000 to 70 000 Euros	25
More than 70 000 Euros	30
Research or innovation activities (patent applications, publications)	20
Awards (by acknowledged institutions)	20
Work experience (appropriate to training or in executive position)	Maximum number of creditable points: 20
Work experience (per year)	2
Six months' work experience in Austria	10
Language competence	Maximum number of creditable points: 10
Knowledge of German or English on level A1 or	5
on level A2	10
Age	Maximum number of creditable points: 20
Up to 35 years	20
Up to 40 years	15
Up to 45 years	10
University studies in Austria	Maximum number of creditable points: 10
Second part of the course of half of the required ECTS-score	5
Entire diploma or bachelor and master course	10
Total of max. creditable points	100
Required minimum score	70

Admission criteria for occupations with skilled labour shortage according to § 12a (Annex B)

Criteria:	Points
Qualification	Maximum number of creditable points: 30
Completed vocational training for an occupation with skilled labour shortage	20
General matriculation examination in the sense of § 64 Abs. 1 Universitätsgesetz 2002 (Universities Act 2002), BGBl. I Nr. 120	25
Completion of a course of studies at a tertiary educational institution lasting at least three years	30

Work experience appropriate to training	Maximum number of creditable points:20
Work experience (per year)	2
Work experience in Austria (per year)	4
German language competence	Maximum number of creditable points: 15
Knowledge of German on level A1	5
Knowledge of German on level A2	10
Knowledge of German on level B1	15
English language competence	Maximum number of creditable points: 10
Knowledge of English on level A2	5
Knowledge of English on level B1	10
Age	Maximum number of creditable points: 15
Up to 30 years	15
Up to 40 years	10
Total of max. creditable points	90
Required minimum score	55

Admission criteria for other key personnel according to § 12b Z 1 (Annex C)

Criteria:	Points
Qualification	Maximum number of creditable points: 30
Completed vocational training or special knowledge or skills for the intended occupation	20
General matriculation examination in the sense of § 64 Abs. 1 Universitätsgesetz 2002 (Universities Act 2002), BGBl. I Nr. 120	25
Completion of a course of studies at a tertiary educational institution lasting at least three years	30
Work experience appropriate to training	Maximum number of creditable points: 10
Work experience (per year)	2
Work experience in Austria (per year)	4
Language competence	Maximum number of creditable points: 15
Knowledge of German on level A1 or English on level B1	10
Knowledge of German on level A2 or English on level B2	15
Age	Maximum number of creditable points: 20
Up to 30 years	20
Up to 40 years	15
Total of max. creditable points	75
Additional points for professional athletes and professional trainers	20
Required minimum score	50

ATTENTION: Since the provisions at hand have been presented in a very abridged version, we kindly ask you to obtain detailed information from competent authorities or advice centres. In spite of careful examination mistakes can happen, therefore no guarantee for details contained in this information can be assumed.

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