

Work experience opportunities for asylum seekers

Measures under Section § 5 of the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act (AsylbLG)

What is a work experience opportunity?

Work experience opportunities are additional, non-profit measures/services in the public's interest. Additional means the participants perform work which would otherwise not be performed at all, or which would not be performed to the same extent or at this time.

As low-threshold services, work experience opportunities serve as a means of initial integration. They may be found in the sports and recreation industry, monument preservation, agriculture and conservation, at workshops (e.g. sewing centre or furniture preparation), in social welfare or at cultural establishments. No work relationships or employment contracts requiring social security payments are established. Work experience opportunities must not prevent or replace employment contracts.

Who can participate?

Work experience opportunities are open to entitled benefit recipients under Section 1 Para. 1 AsylbLG. These people must be physically and mentally capable of performing their assigned tasks. Only those fit for work, i.e. not sick and who can work at least three hours a day, may participate. Anyone attending school, vocational preparation or vocational training is not allowed to participate. A work experience opportunity may generally be commenced right from the very first day of arrival in Germany. No work permit is required.

Who decides who participates?

The Social Security Office (Sozialamt), Migration Department, assesses whether the requirements for participation are met and then sends the participants an assignment letter.

Is the work paid?

Yes, participants receive a payment of 0.80 Euros per hour worked.

If they fail to attend the work experience opportunity without a valid reason, the statutory payment is reduced (Section 5 Para. 4 AsylbLG).

When does the work experience opportunity end?

The assignment is initially for six months. Thereafter, the Social Security Office decides whether or not it will be extended. In any case, the work ends once the participant commences gainful employment or an apprenticeship/training or if their entitlement to receive benefits under the AsylbLG ends.

How are the working hours regulated?

Work experience opportunities may only be performed part-time. They generally consist of 25 hours of work a week.

Where can I find out more info?

Anyone interested in a work experience opportunity should contact their local refugee social worker or benefits officer. Info on vacancies is also available from the regional coordinators. Contact details: www.dresden.de/asyl > Flüchtlingssozialarbeit.

Imprint

Publisher

Landeshauptstadt Dresden / State Capital Dresden

Sozialamt / Social Security Office

Telephone: (03 51) 4 88 48 61

Email: sozialamt@dresden.de

Editors: Ibolya Kovács, Teresa Schwarze

18 September 2016

Postfach 12 00 20

01001 Dresden

www.dresden.de

Central authorities' switchboard 115 – We love questions