Vocational training in Germany (Ausbildung)

Bookbinder (Buchbinder/in)

Buchbinder / Buchbinderin

You make, repair and decorate books and other bound products, by hand or by machine. A 3-year training in a company and at vocational school.

LEVEL	DURATION	GERMAN	PAY DURING TRAINING
Baccalaureate required	**3 years** 36 months	**B2** required level	**€1,050 to €1,285** gross / month, during the training

We are by your side from day one until you arrive in Germany.

GERMANY
+49 (0) 7033 694 18 80

CAMEROON
+237 622 20 81 64

www.campus-allemagne.org

Douala office : Rond-point Maetur Bonamoussadi – Nice Cream building (4th floor), opposite the COGENI hardware store, Douala, Cameroon

View the full sheet online

THE OCCUPATION IN 30 SECONDS

What a bookbinder does

A bookbinder designs bound products in one-off or industrial production: they repair books, make special orders and, in production, run the machines and control the work steps.

Bind by hand

Make products using manual binding and casing-in techniques, for special orders.

Repair and restore

Repair damaged books and work carefully on the finishing or restoration of volumes.

Produce by machine

In industrial production, set up and run machines and control the production steps.

This occupation is for you if...

- ✓ you work carefully and have an eye for detail
- ✓ you have manual skill and dexterity
- ✓ you have a sense of aesthetics for decorating a book
- ✓ you accept the responsibility of working on precious books

Less suitable if...

- – you dislike meticulous work that takes patience
- – you are looking for a job that is purely office-based
- – you do not want to work in a workshop or a production hall

A TYPICAL DAY IN THE WORKSHOP

07:30 **Reading the orders** : The trainer allocates the day's jobs: bindings to make and books to repair.

08:30 **Setting up the workstation** : Prepare the materials, work out the quantities needed and set up the tools and machines required.

09:30 **Making a volume** : Assemble and bind a volume using manual or machine binding techniques.

11:30 **Repairing a damaged book** : Carefully restore the cover or spine of a damaged book.

14:00 **Decoration and finishing** : Add gilding, edging or a decoration to a product for a customer.

15:30 **Checking and tidying** : Check the quality of the finished work, document the steps and tidy the workstation.

Hand bookbinding | Book repair | Machine set-up | Decoration and finishing | Material calculation | Quality control | Care | Manual skill | Aesthetic sense | Sense of responsibility | Patience

THE TRAINING

How the Ausbildung works

In Germany you learn by working: this is the “dual system”. You are an employee of a company and a student at a vocational school (Berufsschule) at the same time.

3 to 4 days a week at the company | **1–2 days school**

Year 1

Basics of the trade

- Planning and organising work
- Preparing stations, tools, machines
- First bound products

Year 2

Binding techniques

- Making by hand and by machine
- Choosing processing techniques
- Intermediate exam (Zwischenprüfung)

Year 3

Chosen options

- Two options, e.g. book repair
- One-off or machine production
- Final exam (Gesellenprüfung)

Exams and qualification

An intermediate exam (Zwischenprüfung) takes place before the end of the second year: written work planning and making a test piece. The final exam (Gesellenprüfung) has a practical task with a technical discussion, two written papers and a paper on economics and society. You obtain the Gesellenbrief (journeyman's certificate), issued by the Chamber of Crafts (HWK).

YOU ARE PAID DURING THE TRAINING

What you need to apply

- ✓ Baccalaureate level is required.
- ✓ The required level is B2. Good technical vocabulary for the trade is a real plus.
- ✓ The work takes place mostly in workshops or production halls; it demands a lot of care, manual skill and precision, especially for finishing and restoration.

Documents to prepare

- ✓ CV and cover letter in German
- ✓ Translated baccalaureate diplomas and transcripts
- ✓ German B2 level certificate

AFTER THE TRAINING

Where it can lead

STRAIGHT AWAY

Skilled bookbinder

Work in a print shop with a bindery, in print finishing or in a publishing house.

WITH EXPERIENCE

Gestalter im Handwerk

Specialise in creative product design with the Gestalter (crafts designer) qualification.

LONGER TERM

Meister or restorer

Work towards the Meister (master craftsman), antiquarian book restoration or a business management course.

YOUR PATHWAY WITH CAMPUS GERMANY

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1

CHECK MY ELIGIBILITY

Take the test online or at the office

The eligibility test is done online on our website, or by visiting our Douala office directly.

2

TALK TO AN ADVISOR

Talk to our team

Germany: **+49 (0) 7033 694 18 80**
Cameroon: **+237 622 20 81 64**

3

PREPARE YOUR GERMAN

DZK, our language centre

Deutschzentrum KAGEDEV (DZK) is our own language centre in Douala. Outside Douala: partner language centres, call us to find the nearest one.

4

GET THE CONTRACT

AZUFA is always us

AZUFA is our platform: it connects you with German companies that recruit apprentices and follows your application through to the training contract.

Douala office

Rond-point Maetur Bonamoussadi – Nice Cream building (4th floor), opposite the COGENI hardware store, Douala, Cameroon

From German A1 to the first day of training in Germany

Each step is run by one of our structures. You keep the same contact from start to finish.

1 — **Check my eligibility**
The test is done online on our website or at our Douala office.
RUN BY CAMPUS GERMANY

2 — **Talk to an advisor**
Review your profile, your wishes and the chosen occupation.
RUN BY CAMPUS GERMANY

3 — **Learn German, from A1 to B2**
Courses adapted to your starting level, up to the required B2 level. In Douala at our own language centre; elsewhere, with our partner centres.
RUN BY DZK

4 — **Prepare the application file**
CV and cover letter in German, translated baccalaureate diplomas and transcripts, B2 level certificate.
RUN BY CAMPUS GERMANY

5 — **Find the company and sign the training contract**
We connect you with German companies that recruit apprentices, and follow your application through to the contract.
RUN BY AZUFA

6 — **Prepare the visa and paperwork**
Support to gather the documents and complete the administrative steps.
RUN BY CAMPUS GERMANY

7 — **Prepare your departure and settling in**
Travel, housing and first steps in Germany: we prepare you before you leave.
RUN BY KAGEDEV E.V.

8 — **First day of training in Germany**
You arrive prepared and supported, with a team that has known you since day one.
RUN BY AZUFA

Contact us

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