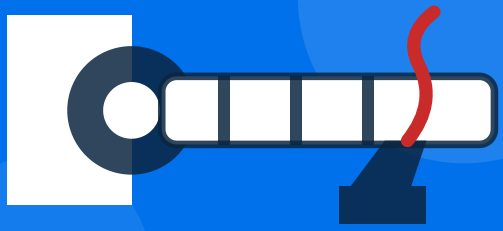
Vocational training in Germany (Ausbildung)

CNC machinist (Zerspanungsmechaniker/in)

Zerspanungsmechaniker / Zerspanungsmechanikerin

You make precision metal parts on computer-controlled turning, milling and grinding machines: a paid 42-month training in industry.



LEVEL	DURATION	GERMAN	PAY DURING TRAINING
Baccalaureate required	**3.5 years** 42 months	**B2** required level	**€1,224 to €1,447** 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 CNC machinist does

They make parts for machines, engines or turbines on CNC machines: they enter or call up programs, choose tools, set up and monitor machining, then check dimensions.

Set up

Enter or call up the program, choose tools, clamp the raw workpiece and start the machine.

Machine

Monitor turning, milling or grinding, then take out the finished parts.

Inspect

Check dimensions and surface finish, correct faults, service and repair the machines.

This occupation is for you if...

- ✓ you like precision and parts checked with exactness
- ✓ you are comfortable with maths and IT applied to machines
- ✓ you are patient and attentive while a machining job runs
- ✓ you accept workshop work, sometimes in shifts

Less suitable if...

- – you struggle with noise, dust and workshop smells
- – you dislike shift work
- – you want an outdoor job or one without precision

A TYPICAL DAY IN THE WORKSHOP

06:00 **Start of shift and handover** : The previous team reports on the state of the machines, then the trainer gives the day's tasks.

06:30 **Preparing the machine** : Choose the tools, clamp the raw workpiece and load the program on the CNC machine.

08:30 **Starting and monitoring** : Start machining, watch the cut and adjust parameters if the part drifts.

10:00 **Checking measurements** : Measure the part, compare it with the drawing and note deviations in the inspection record.

11:30 **Investigating an anomaly** : Find the cause of a surface defect or a vibration and suggest a correction.

13:00 **Maintaining the machine** : Clean, lubricate and inspect the machine so it stays reliable and safe.

CNC programming | Turning and milling | Grinding | Reading technical drawings | Inspection and measurement | Machine maintenance | Precision | Responsibility | Attention | Technical understanding | Coordination

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
The basics
- Materials, tools and safety
- Manual and machine machining
- Reading drawings, measuring

Year 2
CNC controls
- Controls and programming
- Making parts with machines
- Part 1 of the final exam

Year 3
Complete jobs
- Handling machining orders
- Quality control, fault-finding
- Machine maintenance

Year 4 (6 months)
Towards the exam
- A complete work assignment
- Functional analysis, repair
- Part 2 of the final exam

Exams and qualification

The final exam (Abschlussprüfung) has two parts. Part 1, before the end of the second year, counts for 40% of the result. Part 2, at the end of training, counts for 60%: work assignment, order and function analysis, manufacturing technology, economics and social studies. You obtain the IHK final certificate.

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 in production halls with noise, dust, fumes and smells; it can demand good physical fitness (awkward postures, replacing heavy parts) and sometimes shift work.

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 CNC machinist

Work in machine building, precision machining or vehicle manufacturing.

WITH EXPERIENCE

Industrial master (Industriemeister)

Take the industrial master's exam in metalworking to lead a production team.

LONGER TERM

Studies in mechanical engineering

With university entrance qualification: a bachelor's in mechanical engineering.

YOUR PATHWAY WITH CAMPUS GERMANY

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

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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