



Upgrading Training Assistance Act (AFBG)

The Upgrading Training Assistance Act (Aufstiegsfortbildungsförderungsgesetz, AFBG), also abbreviated as “**AufstiegsBAföG**”, is a statutory funding option for all persons who wish to pursue further vocational training. This funding is made up of various support components, including full grants towards living expenses, partial payment of the costs of courses and training, and the awarding of low-interest loans by the “Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau” (KfW).

Persons undergoing full-time further training are entitled to a full grant of **up to 963 euros** to cover their living expenses.

In terms of training costs, the grant share for course and examination fees is **50%**. The remaining costs can be financed through a low-interest loan. After successful completion of the examination, half of the loan is waived. If you subsequently set up your own business, the loan will be completely waived.

If you already have a **Bachelor's degree** or **equivalent**, you may be considered for funding. However, it is important to note that this must be your **highest completed university degree**. If you already hold a Master's degree or an equivalent state or state-recognised higher education qualification, you will not be eligible for future AFBG funding.

If you are a foreigner, you are eligible for funding if your **permanent residence** is domestic and you hold **certain residence titles** or have a **permanent residence permit**. Alternatively, you are also eligible if you have already lived and worked legally in Germany for **15 months**, including the period of your vocational training.

For further information, please visit the website of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research:
[English - BMBF Aufstiegs-BAföG \(aufstiegs-bafoeg.de\)](https://www.bmbwf.de/EN/Themen/AufstiegsBAföG/aufstiegs-bafoeg.de)