

This chart covers some, but not all, of the possible scenarios regarding compliance to German tax laws and regulations for various individuals. US citizens covered under the Status of Forces Agreement (SoFA) should consult the base or post Legal Office as well as German tax and legal experts to get a determination of what they would be required to do to be in compliance. The laws and regulations can be complicated. The German government agencies involved can include the Federal Tax Office (*Bundeszentralamt für Steuern*), the Local Tax Office (*Finanzamt*) and the Federal Customs Office (*Zollamt*). Individual status determinations may also be made at the German State (*Länder*) level. This table should serve as a general guide only as there may be exceptions and/or exemptions available depending on individual circumstances.*

Possible requirements	File annual German tax return	Pay German wage tax	Business license from local business registration office (Gewerbeamt)	German tax number from the local German tax office or a German Tax Identification number from the Federal Tax Office (See #1 on right)	Eligible for certain German "employee" benefits - (See # 2 on right)
Status					
US Retirees: Ordinarily resident collecting any of the following:					
US Social Security	X			X	
Military/DoD Civilian/US Government pensions					
German pensions (Government and/or private pension)	X			X	
Private Pension Plans (401k, IRA etc.)	X			X	
Owner of Rental property in Germany:					
Any nationality	X				
Resident (with German residence permit)	X				
Non-resident	X				
SoFA stamp holder	X				
Employees of a German company - individuals working as an "employee" of a Germany based company (e.g GMBH) and paid by the company with withholding tax (Lohnsteuer) and social security and other deductions taken from the salary:					
US citizen and other nationalities with residence permit or determined to be ordinarily resident	X	X		X	X
US SoFA stamp holder (spouse or family member)		X		X - see #1 on right	X
Employees of an American company paid by an American civilian company (located in the USA), with US FICA deductions taken from salary and working in Germany or on a US military base:					
Local National	X	X		X	
Others nationalities with German residence permit	X	X		X	
US SoFA holder (spouse or family member)	optional	X		X	
US freelancers and self-employed (with SoFA stamp) - may include small business owners:					
US Freelancers and independent contractors with SoFA stamp – to include those paid from the US and issued a 1099 IRS form - working on or off base (fitness trainers for retail merchandisers, sales agents etc.)	X		Depends on type of work or business	X - see #1 on right	
US Freelancers with SoFA stamp paid from Germany in any currency (includes teachers in private US or German schools)	X		Depends on type of work or business	X - see #1 on right	
US Self-employed with SoFA stamp doing business in Germany on or off base (this includes online business run from US Government housing, physical therapists, photographers etc.)	X		Depends on type of work or business	X - see #1 on right	

1- A tax questionnaire is normally required to be filled out and submitted to get a German Tax Number. A Tax Number is normally issued by the local Tax Office (*Finanzamt*). This number is normally used with all correspondence from and to the local Finanzamt. A German Tax Identification Number is normally issued by the Federal Tax Office (*Bundeszentralamt für Steuern*) after registering of address with the local authorities (*Einwohnermeldeamt*). **RFP Steuerberatung** can process these papers for individuals and freelancers.

2 - Employees of companies registered in Germany (e.g. *GmbH*) pay German taxes and contribute to the German "Social Security" programs. These include the German Public Retirement system and the unemployment fund. They may then be eligible to be paid a Children's Allowance (*Kindergeld*) and collect unemployment as long as certain conditions are met. **BSU - Business Set-Up Ltd.** can assist you in these matters.

Retirement contributions may be refunded to non-EU citizens provided they contributed less than 5 years (up to 59 months) and have been out of the country for 24 consecutive months. **BSU** can process the necessary papers required by the German Retirement Fund.

3 - All US Citizens and Green Card holders are required to file an annual tax return with the IRS - regardless of where they reside.

* The information on this chart is provided for informational and educational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. The information is intended, but not promised or guaranteed to be current, complete, or up-to-date and should in no way be taken as an indication of future results. It is not offered as and does not constitute legal advice or legal opinions. You should not act or rely on any information contained in this chart without first seeking the advice of a qualified tax expert and/or attorney.

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