

Guide: Applying for Your Tax Number (Steuernummer) in Germany

What is a Steuernummer?

A Steuernummer is the tax number issued by [your local tax office \(Finanzamt\)](#). It is required for tax returns and for anyone who is self-employed.

It is different from your [Tax Identification Number \(Steuer-ID\)](#):

- The [Steuer-ID](#) is permanent and assigned automatically after you register your address (Anmeldung).
- The [Steuernummer](#) is local, may change if you move, and is used for correspondence with your Finanzamt.

Who needs a Steuernummer?

- [Private individuals](#): You do [not](#) have to apply. If you don't yet have a Steuernummer, it will be [automatically assigned](#) the first time you file a tax return.
- [Freelancers and self-employed persons](#): You also don't apply separately. The Steuernummer is automatically assigned when you submit the official "Fragebogen zur steuerlichen Erfassung" (Questionnaire for Tax Registration).

In most cases, you [don't need to actively apply](#). The Finanzamt assigns your number automatically.

How to get your Steuernummer earlier (optional application)

If you need your Steuernummer before your first tax return (e.g. for invoices, employer paperwork, or contracts), you can request it:

1. Fill out the ["Fragebogen zur steuerlichen Erfassung"](#):
 - Online via [Mein ELSTER](#)
 - Or as [PDF form \(German only\)](#)
2. Submit it to your local Finanzamt (see contacts below).
3. Wait for processing – typically [2 to 6 weeks](#). You will then receive your Steuernummer by post.

Where to find your Steuernummer

- On previous [tax assessment notices](#) (Steuerbescheid)
- On correspondence from the Finanzamt
- If lost, you can contact your Finanzamt directly

Contact Details

Finanzamt Bremen

- Address: Rudolf-Hilferding-Platz 1, 28195 Bremen
- Phone: +49 421 361-90909

- Email: office@fa-hb.bremen.de

Finanzamt Bremerhaven

- Address: Rickmersstraße 90, 27568 Bremerhaven
- Phone: +49 471 596-99000
- Email: office@fa-bhv.bremen.de

Tax Return (Steuererklärung)

- File online via [Mein ELSTER](#).
- Tax year = January–December.
- General deadline = **31 July of the following year**.

Summary

- You automatically receive a **Steuer-ID** after registering your address.
- Your **Steuernummer** is usually **assigned automatically** (first tax return or registration as self-employed).
- If you need it earlier, submit the Fragebogen zur steuerlichen Erfassung via ELSTER or PDF form.
- For any questions, contact the Finanzamt in Bremen or Bremerhaven directly.