

Want to set up a private practice in Germany?

Some tips from David Barnes

I would start by saying it's not easy but it's not impossible. It takes time, patience and some determination.

1. On a positive note, there is a good support network of Counselors and Therapists. In my experience, most people working here are glad to know others working in the field and are happy to refer clients on to people with different specialist areas. This seems to be a mutual process. So get in touch with your future colleagues.

1. · There are two organizations ideal for networking and support. www.actberlin.info (that's us) and PATH: The Association of English-speaking Psychotherapists in Berlin. Tel. No. +49 03032708689

2. Anyone moving to Berlin or Germany with the idea of setting up as a counselor or therapist usually, initially, has a host of questions with regard to legal and financial matters. This is the best source I have found for information to help anyone answer at least some of these questions.

1. · http://www.bdp-verband.org/psychologie/faq_recognition.html ❖
2. · For more general advice about moving to Germany, I would recommend, <http://www.expatica.com/de> ❖

3. Some people ask, how much can I expect to charge in Berlin. This is, of course, a matter of personal opinion and choice. In my experience, most therapists/counsellors charge somewhere between 70 – 140 Euro per session. There are some who charge less and some work with a sliding scale. For the client, the most important criteria is that the person is qualified and adhering to recognized standards, which are set in place to protect the client.

4. For questions regarding tax. I'm not an expert in that area and wouldn't begin to give advice, other than to suggest speaking to a qualified accountant who is familiar with German tax laws.

5. For people looking for an internship: I would advise you to contact organizations, schools, training programs, and universities rather than individuals. ACT Berlin cannot offer internships.

If you are moving to Berlin and want to join ACT, go over to the Registration page and fill out the form: http://actberlin.info/ACT_Berlin/Registration.html

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