

# Law Enforcement in Germany



## Education and Training

The individual *Länder* - and *Bund* - conduct police education and vocational training for their own personnel. The length and thoroughness of this training contributes to the high level of police professionalism in Germany.

The Landespolizei have had women members since the forces were reconstituted after World War II. Initially, female officers were only assigned to cases involving juveniles and women but in the mid-1970s duties extended to all aspects of police work.

Police departments in big cities are especially keen to recruit officers from ethnic minorities to reduce language and cultural barriers.

Most police cadets are recruited directly after leaving school and spend 3 years\* combined training at the College for Police and Public Administration (*Verwaltungsfachhochschule / Hochschule für Polizei und Verwaltung*). Officers graduate with a *Bachelor in Police and Public Management*, and cover such academic subjects as:

Law: National, EU, Constitutional, Criminal, Traffic	Powers of Enforcement
Forensic Science	Management
Sociology	Ethics
Psychology	Conflict Management

Police education and training also includes the more practical aspects of the job including self-defence and weapon handling, as well as intern-based field placements in police departments and the Formed Police Units (*Bereitschaftspolizei*). Due to such training - and in line with comparable professions/education - all officers graduate with the rank of *Polizeikommissar* (Police Inspector).

*\* seven of the 16 states still retain the 2.5 year training scheme, as well as the Bundespolizei (Federal Police,) with an emphasis on practical skills. These officers graduate as Polizei Obermeister (Senior Constable). Suitably qualified officers wishing to seek the next level of rank (kommissar/inspector), they must complete an additional two years education.*

After several years of duty, officers of the *Kommissar* rank may be selected to attend *Senior Service* training\* at the German Police University (*Deutschen Hochschule der Polizei*) that the States and Federal Ministry of Interior jointly administer. Graduates leave with a Master of Public Administration (MPA) and the senior officer rank of *Polizeirat* (Superintendent).

*\* there also exists direct civilian entry for those with a relevant professional academic qualifications e.g. law, economics, business administration etc.*