



Occupational Pension at the University of Potsdam (Introduction to VBL for University Staff)

The Versorgungsanstalt des Bundes und der Länder (VBL) is the central institution providing the supplementary pension scheme for public sector employees in Germany. It complements the statutory pension system and provides additional financial security in retirement.

Its primary purpose is to provide public sector employees—including university staff—with an occupational pension.

The two main pillars of VBL

1. **Mandatory coverage (VBLklassik):** - VBLklassik is the mandatory supplementary pension scheme for public sector employees. It operates as a pay-as-you-go system, funded by contributions from both employees and employers. - Benefits are based on a pension points system, meaning that the amount of your future occupational pension depends on your length of service and salary.

2. **Voluntary plans (VBLextra and VBLdynamik):** - In addition to mandatory coverage, VBL offers optional retirement savings plans. Through VBLextra and VBLdynamik, employees can make voluntary additional contributions to further build their retirement provision. - These plans are funded (capital-based) and offer flexible contribution arrangements as well as potential returns.

Benefits of VBL for university employees: As a university employee in the public sector, you benefit from a reliable and comprehensive supplementary pension scheme. By combining mandatory coverage with voluntary options, you can tailor your retirement savings to your individual needs and financial goals.

Summary:

For public sector employees, VBL is a core component of retirement planning in Germany.

If you have any questions, please contact VBL directly.

When you began employment in the public sector, you were automatically enrolled in the mandatory VBLklassik scheme. Through this mandatory plan, you will receive a lifetime occupational pension **in addition to your statutory pension**. The amount of this pension depends on the number of pension points you accumulate during your employment.

More information on VBLklassik, VBLextra, and government-supported retirement options is available on the VBL website, particularly in its explainer videos and videocasts. (Note: Due to current security restrictions, videos may not play on university work computers. Please use a private device if necessary.)

The VBLwiki provides a comprehensive and user-friendly overview of occupational pension provision within VBL.

Videos & Podcasts VBL explainer videos

These resources are only available on private devices, not on work computers.

<https://www.vbl.de/de/videos-und-podcasts>

VBL videocasts on the following topics:

VBLklassik: Getting started, waiting periods, part-time employment, maternity protection periods and parental leave, recognition and transfer of periods from other supplementary pension schemes, leave of absence during employment, illness and reduced earning capacity, pension splitting, transition to civil servant status, termination of employment, applying for retirement benefits, contributions in different collective bargaining regions (East/West), VBL occupational pension as an old-age pension, occupational pension in cases of reduced earning capacity, occupational pension for surviving dependents, financing.

VBL Services

Guidance for fixed-term academic staff

Special provisions for fixed-term academic staff (West)

Special provisions for fixed-term academic staff (East)

VBLextra – the voluntary insurance option

Government subsidies within the VBL system

VBL podcast – Information on VBL services, how to contact VBL, the online client portal, an introduction to the webcast, and an interview with newly insured members