

AUSTRIAN RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Please note: Holocaust victims from Austria born between March 13, 1938 and May 8, 1945 may be eligible for an Austrian pension as of August 1, 2009!

These are general guidelines for Holocaust survivors who believe to meet the criteria of eligibility for the above mentioned pension. Applications will exclusively be examined and decided by the Austrian pension insurance institution (PVA - Pensionsversicherungsanstalt).

? Who has the preferential right to retroactively purchase insurance months in order to receive Retirement Benefits according to §§ 500 ff of the General Social Security Act?

Persons persecuted by the National Socialist regime, who had to emigrate and acquired only few or no insurance months in Austria, may pay contributions to the pension system at a preferential rate, if they were born

- between March 13, 1938 and May 8, 1945 and were persecuted in Austria or another country and at least one parent had his/her residence on the territory of the Republic of Austria on March 12, 1938 or
- before March 13, 1938 and had their domicile on the territory of the Republic of Austria on March 12, 1938.

? For which period can contributions to the pension system be retroactively purchased at a preferential rate in order to receive the Retirement Benefits?

For the period of emigration contributions can be retroactively purchased, but at the longest for the period up to March 31, 1959. Persons born in the period from January 1, 1933 to May 8, 1945 may also retroactively purchase contributions for the period of emigration after March 31, 1959, but for a maximum of 180 months altogether. In the year 2009 insurance months can be retroactively purchased at the amount of € 28.70 per month. The monthly payment increases yearly.

? Who is not eligible for the Retirement Benefits?

- Persons who were born before May 9, 1945 and were not persecuted.
- Persons who were born after May 8, 1945.
- Persons who returned to Austria and acquired insurance months by working activities.
- "Late emigrants" who stayed in Austria after May 9, 1945 and only emigrated after December 31, 1949.

? How to apply for the Retirement Benefits according to §§ 500 ff of the General Social Security Act (ASVG)?

The application for the Retirement Benefits may be made by an informal letter:

„I herewith apply for the Retirement Benefits according to §§ 500 ff of the General Social Security Act (ASVG) and would like to retroactively purchase insurance months in order to receive an Austrian retirement payment.“

? Which documents, confirmations, information do you need to send in?

- For persons born between March 13, 1938 and May 8, 1945: Confirmation that at least one parent resided in Austria on March 12, 1938 and that you were persecuted in Austria or another country.
- For persons who were born before March 13, 1938: Documents testifying that your domicile was on the territory of the Republic of Austria on March 12, 1938 and that you fled from Austria, e.g. confirmation for residential registration and/or old passport. In addition you will be asked, if and if affirmative, for which time your domicile was in Austria after May 9, 1945.
- Documents: birth certificate, marriage certificate(s), documents about change of name
- Confirmations: school certificates
- Information: Substantiation concerning persecution by the National Socialist regime. Proof can be provided by presenting an official certificate ("Amtsbescheinigung") or a victim's identity card ("Opferausweis"). Please mention your insurance number in your present country of domicile (if it does not exist, please give information about insurance times in Austria and in your present country of domicile) Please indicate the names and the dates of birth of your parents. Please also indicate your last residence before emigration.

? In case you need help to obtain an Austrian pension please be advised to contact ESRA for counseling and advice (service is independent from where you live):

ESRA

Tempelgasse 5

1010 Vienna

Austria

Tel.: +43-1-214 90 14

Fax: +43-1-214 90 14-30

E-mail: office@esra.at

Please file applications for Retirement Benefits directly at:

Pensionsversicherungsanstalt (PVA)

Friedrich Hillegeist-Straße 1

A-1021 Wien, Austria

Phone: +43-(0)-503 03

Fax: +43-(0)-503 03-28850

E-mail: pva@pva.sozvers.at

www.pensionsversicherung.at

You also may file your application at the relevant Austrian representation (embassy, consulate) in your country!

For information if requested in English for Retirement Benefits

Phone: +43-(0)-503 03-23850 (Ms. Christine Rauch) or

Phone: +43-(0)-503 03-23800 (Ms. Stefanie Nemeč)

In case of questions please do not hesitate to contact the relevant case specialist of the pension insurance institution (PVA) mentioned in each letter with phone number, fax number and e-mail address.



If you are not sure whether you are eligible to file an application, please contact the pension insurance institution (PVA)!

Please note that the surviving dependants of deceased claimants have to file an application for continuation of the proceedings with the pension insurance institution in order to be able to receive the outstanding pension payments or Attendance Allowance accrued between the date of application and the date of death of the insured.