

Entry & visa process

There are several steps required in applying for a visa. To make it easier for you, here is an overview of the whole process.

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Step 1: Check the requirements

Before applying for a [visa](#), you must check whether you meet the basic requirements for the granting of a [residence title \(Section 5 \(1\) of the Residence Act \[AufenthG\]](#) [↗](#)):

- **A secure livelihood:** As part of the visa process, you must prove that you have sufficient funds to cover your living expenses. This can be done in a number of ways: Depending on the purpose of your entry, you can use either your future salary, a [declaration of commitment](#) or a blocked bank account with a minimum amount of funds as proof.
- **Proof of identity and nationality:** You must prove that there is no doubt about your identity and nationality. This is usually done by presenting a valid passport when applying for a visa.
- **No public interest in your expulsion:** There must be no grounds for your expulsion. A check will be made as to whether your entry into Germany is likely to pose a threat to public safety and public order. Indications of an interest in your expulsion may arise, for example, from information you provide during the security interview and in your visa application.
- **Passport obligation:** As a third-country national, you can only enter Germany with a valid and recognised passport or document in lieu of a passport. The competent [German mission abroad](#) will advise you on passport validity requirements.

In addition to the mandatory requirements for obtaining a residence title, you will also need to find out about the specific requirements that apply to your particular purpose of entry and residence – for example, whether you intend to work, study or undertake vocational training in Germany. Refer to the “[Types of visa](#)” section for more information.

Step 2: Apply for the visa in your country of residence

If you meet all the requirements for the visa, you must prepare the necessary documents for your visa application. You will usually find the list of required documents on the website of the German embassy in your country of residence. Under [overview of advisory and contact points](#)., you can identify the German embassy responsible for you. You can submit your visa application either online via the [Consular Services Porta](#) [↗](#) of the [Federal Foreign Office](#) or alternatively directly at the German embassy responsible for you. In this case, you must make an appointment with the German embassy. It is important that you apply for a visa that corresponds to the actual purpose of your stay in Germany. Only then can a [residence permit](#) be issued in Germany after the visa. For a visa application submitted directly at the German embassy, you will need the appropriate [visa application form](#).



Plan your visa application early

Waiting times for an appointment at the German embassy vary depending on the location. Therefore, make sure to allow sufficient time for requesting an appointment and for the processing of your application.

An entry visa fee of €75 is charged for all types of visas issued for long-term stays in Germany. Please note that this fee is non-refundable if your visa application is unsuccessful.



Fast-track procedure for skilled workers: How to speed up the process

Have you already found an employer who wants you to come to Germany as soon as possible? Your future employer may be able to speed up the process from Germany. Tell them about the [fast-track procedure for skilled workers](#) before you make an appointment at the embassy.

Step 3: Enter Germany

Has your visa been issued? You can now start preparing to come to Germany. Given that you are planning to stay in Germany long-term, it is advisable to bring all your personal documents with you, such as your birth certificate, school-leaving certificate, qualifications, and, if it applies to you, driving licence and marriage certificate.


Please note: You will need health insurance coverage from the first day you arrive in Germany. Proof of insurance will be required at the latest when you collect your visa from the German embassy.

Find out about your new home before you travel. In the section “[Living in Germany](#)”, you will gain insights into key areas of everyday life that will help you settle into life in Germany.

Step 4: Apply for your residence permit in Germany

Did you enter Germany on a visa? We wish you a warm welcome! Your visa is usually valid for up to 12 months. Within this period, you must apply for a residence permit to stay in Germany on a long-term basis.

Please contact the [foreigners authority](#) responsible for your matters and find out what documents you need to apply for a residence permit. Then make an appointment to obtain the residence permit that corresponds to your visa.

On the website of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, you will find the address of the [foreigners authority](#)  responsible for you.

Information on the web

Federal Foreign Office (FFO)

[You can find out which visa you need in order to come to Germany with the Visa-Navigator.](#)

Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)

[Centre of Excellence for Asylum, Migration and Integration in Germany.](#)



URL: <https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/visa-residence/procedure/entry-process>

Date: 2026-04-09 19:29:35 GMT