




Visa for self-employment

Would you like to start a business in Germany? You can find the necessary information for your visa application here.

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With a [visa](#) for [self-employment](#), you can realise your start-up project in Germany. Depending on whether you are planning on setting up a business or working as a freelancer, different conditions may apply.

To find out whether you require a visa to enter Germany, see [Who needs a visa?](#)


Visa for self-employment: setting up a business

There are two ways to become self-employed in Germany. Either you set up a business or you work as a freelancer. If you are looking to start a business and meet the following requirements, you can obtain a [residence permit](#) for self-employment in accordance with [Section 21 \(1\) on the Residence Act - AufenthG](#) :

- There needs to be an economic interest in or a regional demand for your product or service.
- It is foreseeable that your company will have a positive effect on the economy.
- You are able to finance the implementation of your business concept with your own capital or through a loan commitment.
- If you are older than 45 years of age, this visa can only be issued if you can provide proof of adequate old age pension provisions.

You can find more information in the section “[Visa for self-employed business](#)”.

Visa for self-employment: freelancers

There are two ways to become self-employed in Germany. Either you set up a business or you work as a freelancer. If you would like to work as a freelancer in one of the liberal professions, you are able to obtain a residence permit for self-employment in accordance with [Section 21 \(5\) on the Residence Act - AufenthG](#) . You must fulfil the following requirements:

- You can provide proof of sufficient funds to finance your projects.
- You have obtained any licences required to perform the job in question.
- If you are older than 45 years of age, you must provide proof of adequate old-age pension provision.

You can find more information in the section “[Visa for freelance business](#)”.

Video: experiences of a business founder

Your prospects with a visa for self-employment

A visa or residence permit for self-employment is initially issued for up to three years. If your business idea is successful and you are able to cover the costs of living for yourself and your family, the residence permit can be extended.



Settlement permit for self-employed persons

If you are starting your own company, applying for a settlement permit after three years is an option.

To learn about how to realise your business idea in Germany, see [Setting Up a Business](#).

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](#)



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