At a glance: Visa for the purpose of family reunification to foreign skilled workers

Visa and entry procedure for immigrants from third countries subject to visa obligation
General entitlement requirements (Section 5 Act on the Residence - AufenthG): passport, proof of financial means, no existing reason for expulsion

Step 1
Check requirements
- Spouse, children or parents with valid residence permit in Germany
- Sufficient living space in Germany for yourself and your family
- Spouses minimum age: 18 years

Please consider: Requirements may vary due to intergovernmental agreements and special arrangements.

Step 2
Make an appointment at the German embassy
- Preparation of necessary documents: e.g. visa application, passport, proof of family cohabitation, if applicable: proof of German language skills, proof of financial means

Please consider: The German embassies provide information about possible waiting times for appointments and any additional documents that may be required on their websites.

Step 3
Apply for visa in country of residence
- Bring documents in their entirety
- Fees: EUR 75 (in local currency)

Please consider: Processing time ranges from a few days to several weeks.

Step 4
Enter Germany
- Issuance of visa for the purpose of family reunion
- Book flight/journey to Germany

Please consider: sufficient health insurance cover mandatory upon arrival in Germany.

Step 5
Apply for residence permit
- Make appointment with foreigners authority
- Apply for residence permit for the purpose of family reunification (Section 29 Act on the Residence - AufenthG)
  immigration of spouses joining EU citizens: Section 30 Act on the Residence - AufenthG
  immigration of children: Section 32 Act on the Residence - AufenthG
- Request a list of the required documents from the foreigners authority and prepare them
- Handling fees can be up to EUR 100 (Section 45 Residence Ordinance - AufenthV)

Please consider: Residence permit must be applied for before the expiry of the entry visa.

This overview is a simplified representation of the visa procedure. The steps described are solely for the purpose of clarifying the application procedure for residence permits. Further details on the visa application procedure and information on important points of contact can be found at www.make-it-in-germany.com.

Date: January 2023

© Make it Germany; Federal Ministry of Economics and Climate Action