At a glance: Visa for research

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 the requirements
- Hosting agreement or contract with a research organization in Germany
- If necessary, secure further financial means (e.g. scholarship)

Please consider: Requirements may vary when working in a publicly funded research institution.

Step 2: Make an appointment at the German embassy
- Preparation of necessary documents: e.g. passport, hosting agreement with a research institution, proof of financial means, visa application form

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 a visa in the 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 research in Germany
- Book flight/journey to Germany

Please consider: It is mandatory to have sufficient health insurance coverage prior to entering Germany.

Step 5: Apply for a residence permit in Germany
- Make appointment with foreigners authority
- Apply for residence permit for research in Germany (Section 18 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: The residence permit must be applied for before the entry visa expires.