



At a Glance: Visa for the Recognition of Foreign Vocational Qualifications

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

CHECK THE REQUIREMENTS

Step

1

- Proof of German language skills: at least level A2 (CEFR).
 - Secure financing (as a rule, blocked account with at least €1,091 per month, as of 2025).
 - **Entry for the participation in qualification measures:** recognition notice indicating the differences that were determined during the recognition procedure **and** permission for suitable measures for qualification or further education in Germany.
 - **Entry for taking an examination:** recognition notice indicating the necessity of taking one or multiple examinations.
 - **Entry for a qualification analysis:** a necessity for a qualification analysis has been determined and confirmation for the qualification analysis is present.
- i Please consider:** in case of a predominantly in-company qualification analysis, the approval of the Federal Employment Agency (BA) is generally requested during the visa procedure.

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT AT THE GERMAN EMBASSY

- Prepare the required documents: e.g. passport, proof of financing, proof of German language skills, visa application form; if necessary: recognition notice, registration confirmation for further training, "Erklärung zum Beschäftigungsverhältnis" (Declaration of Employment) form filled out by the employer (including the recognition annex).

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

Step

2

APPLY FOR A VISA IN THE COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE

Step

3

- Bring documents in their entirety.
- Fees: €75 (in local currency).

i Please consider: processing times may strongly vary depending on the mission abroad and processing workload. Please find further information on the website of the competent embassy.

ENTER GERMANY

- Issuance of the entry visa for the purpose of the recognition of foreign vocational qualifications.
- Book flight / plan journey to Germany.

i Please consider: in order for an entry visa to be issued, proof of valid health insurance coverage must be presented. After entering Germany, new health insurance must be taken out.

Step

4

APPLY FOR RESIDENCE PERMIT IN GERMANY

Step

5

- Register your home address in Germany at the Residents' Registration Office.
- Book an appointment at the competent foreigners authority.
- Ask the foreigners authority for a list of the required documents and start the preparation.
- In case of **entry for the participation in qualification measures:** apply for residence permit for the purpose of the recognition of foreign vocational qualifications (Section 16d (1) of the Residence Act [AufenthG]). After a **successful qualification analysis** or **positive examination results** concerning full recognition: residence permit for seeking employment or for taking up employment possible.
- Fees may add up to €100 (Sections 45 ff. of the Residence Ordinance [AufenthV]).

i Please consider: the application for the residence permit must be submitted before the entry visa expires.

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.