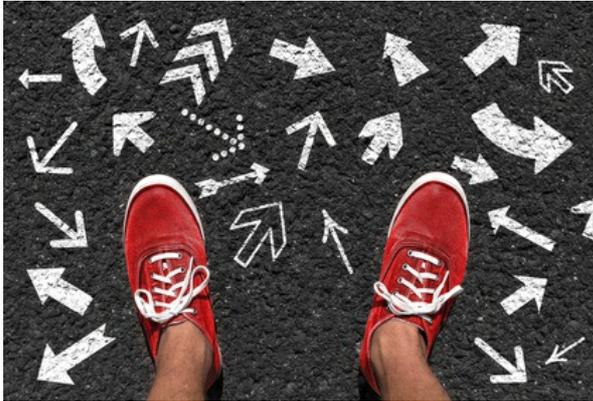


The naturalisation process



Submit your application

Even if you have lived in Germany for eight years or more, you are not naturalised automatically. You always have to submit a written application to the naturalisation authorities. They will also give you personal advice and supply an application form which you must fill out and hand in with the required documents. You can apply for naturalisation in your own right from the age of 16. For children, the parents or other legal guardians can apply on their behalf.

Pay the fee

As a general rule, the fee due when applying for naturalisation is 255 euros. For children who are to be naturalised with their parents the fee is 51 euros per child. If one child alone is to be naturalised, a fee of 255 euros is also due. In exceptional cases the naturalisation fee may be reduced or waived altogether. This is the case, for example, if the applicant has only low income or several children are to be naturalised at the same time

Naturalisation certificate

Once your application has been verified and accepted, you will receive notification from the naturalisation authorities as how to proceed next. Depending on which Land you live in, you will have to take the steps to renounce your previous nationality yourself. You will receive an assurance of naturalisation (“Einbürgerungszusicherung”) which you can submit to the consulate of your country of origin to apply to renounce your previous nationality. If by acquiring German nationality you automatically lose your previous nationality, or if it is impossible or deemed unacceptable to renounce it, there should be no further obstacle to your naturalisation. You will receive a naturalisation certificate, which will usually be handed to you in person or presented during a naturalisation ceremony. This document makes you a German citizen.

How long it takes all in all from the time you apply to the presentation of the certificate varies from case to case. In many cases it can take several months. The best thing is to talk with your local naturalisation authority.

Applying for a German identity card and passport

With the naturalisation certificate you can have a German identity card and a German passport made out at your local residents' registration office (“Einwohnermeldeamt”). You have to be in possession of at least one of these documents in Germany to provide proof of your identity if required. It usually takes a few weeks before your identity papers are ready to collect.

Information on the web

Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)

Centre of Excellence for Asylum, Migration and Integration in Germany

Preparatory questionnaire for naturalisation test

<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/visa/living-permanently-in-germany/naturalisation/process>

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