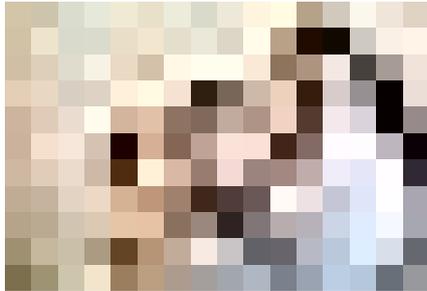


## Spouses joining citizens of non-EU countries



Citizens of countries which are not member states of the European Union or the EEA can bring their family members to Germany. Which regulations apply depends on the nationality of the dependants you want to bring.

### If your spouse is a citizen of a member state of the EU or the EEA

Even if you are a third-country national, if your spouse is a citizen of a member state of the EU or EEA, they are entitled to freedom of movement and can therefore live and work in Germany without restrictions. They must enter the country with a national identity card.

### If your spouse is a citizen of a non-EU country

Even if your partner is a national of a non-EU country, you can look forward to living together in Germany. For your spouse to be able to join you, the following requirements are to be met:

- **Right of residence:** As an employee, you have a temporary or permanent residence permit or a Blue Card in Germany.
- **Accommodation:** You have rented or bought accommodation in Germany which is large enough for your family. You can find tips on finding accommodation in our section on [Living in Germany](#).
- **Health insurance and money:** You have sufficient health insurance cover and funds to be able to support your family.
- **Legal age:** Your spouse is of legal age, i.e. at least 18 years old.
- **Basic knowledge of German:** As a general rule, spouses coming to join their partners must have basic knowledge of German. This is to ensure that they can communicate in German from the moment they arrive in Germany. For example, they should be able to ask the way, go shopping or introduce themselves in German.

However, there are a number of exceptions. Your spouse does not require any knowledge of German or a residence permit if the following applies:

- You are a holder of an EU Blue Card, an ICT card or a Mobile ICT card.
- You are in possession of a residence permit according to Section 18c (3), Section 18d, Section 18e or Section 18f of the German Residence Act (*AufenthG*).
- You are a citizen of Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the United States of America or the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (British citizens and certain British citizenship from the Channel Islands and Gibraltar or the Isle of Man).

Nevertheless, your family will probably feel most at home in Germany if they all speak a little German. How this can be achieved in our section on [Learning German](#).

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### Infobox

Registered partners also can take advantage of Germany's family reunification scheme if they meet the requirements ([Section 27 \(2\) Residence Act \(AufenthG\)](#) [↗](#)).

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## How to bring your family to Germany

If your spouse requires a visa to enter Germany, they must apply for it at the German Embassy or consulate in their country. Our [world map](#) lists the advisory and contact services of all German embassies and consulates.

To apply for a visa for your spouse to join you, you will generally need to provide your passport and a certificate or proof of a registered or civil partnership. Ask the local German Embassy what other documents need to be submitted.

Since processing your application may take some time, we suggest you find out what documentation you need for the application well in advance and submit your application in good time.

Once your family has arrived in Germany, you must register them at the Residents' Registration Office.

(*Einwohnermeldeamt*). You must apply to the local immigration authority for a residence permit with To do so, you must present your passports, birth and marriage certificates, pay slips or tax statements are renting or bought accommodation and any other documents that may be needed, depending on situation of your family.

Once right of residence has been granted, your newly arrived spouse is immediately entitled to take employment in Germany.

**At a glance: visa for the purpose of family reunification to foreigners** [📄](#) (PDF)



**Information on the web**  
**in-**  
**germany.com%2Fen%2Fliving-**  
**in-**  
**germany%2Ffamily-**  
**life%2Fspouses-**  
**joining-**  
**citizens-**  
**non-**  
**eu)**

Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ)

Family portal

Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)

Important information on family reunification

Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ)

ESF federal program "Stark im Beruf" supports mothers with a migration background in getting a job