Information: Family Reunion Visa
(Last update: October 2017)

If you intend to stay longer than three months in Germany, you have to apply for a long-term visa.

Compared to the Schengen Visa there are different requirements for these long-term visas. Most categories of long term visas cannot be issued without the approval of the responsible local Immigration Authority in Germany; the visa can therefore only be issued once the German Embassy has received this approval.

A processing time of several months must be expected.

EU nationals do not require a visa to enter the Federal Republic of Germany.

Non-EU nationals:

Generally speaking, all other foreigners require a visa for stays in Germany. A visa is not required for visits of up to 90 days in an 180-day period for nationals of those countries for which the European Community has abolished the visa requirement.

You will find an overview on visa requirements here:

Table of countries whose citizens require/do not require visas to enter Germany

Only in exceptional circumstances should nationals of those countries for which the European Community has abolished the visa requirement apply at the German Missions in their countries of origin before entering Germany.

Citizens of other countries have to apply and obtain the visa prior to entry.
If you apply for your residence permit in Germany, please note that you are not allowed to work until your residence permit has been issued.

**Family Reunion Visa**

**Family reunion with a spouse (German or Non-EU National)**

Foreign citizens should apply for a family reunion visa / residence permit after entering Germany at the local immigration authority.

Processing of the visa application in Portugal can take several months, depending on approval from German authorities. Please note that 'De facto' partnerships are not recognized under the family reunion category!

- **All visa applications must be lodged in person.** Your fingerprints will be electronically scanned as part of the application process.

**Which documents do I have to submit with my visa application?**

- 2 completed application form for a long-term visa
- 2 recent passport photographs (35 x 45 mm)
- your national passport (validity of which has to exceed your stay by at least three months) - original plus 2 copies
- your marriage certificate - original plus 2 copies
- passport of your spouse (if applicable: including his/her German residence permit) - original or certified copy plus 2 copies
- proof of basic German language skills (original plus 2 copies) - e.g. standard language test 'Deutsch 1' of the Goethe Institut.
  There are some exemptions for proof of basic German language skills:
  Flyer
- evidence of health insurance valid in Germany with validity until a German health insurance covers you (if applicable) - including details about coverage (at least € 30,000 and including repatriation costs) - 2 copies
- prepaid registered mail envelope with your address (if you request return by mail)
- visa fee: € 75 by credit card (VISA or MasterCard) or in cash (visa applications for spouses of German and other EU citizens are free of charge)

Please note that all documents others than in German or English must be translated into German language.
We can process only complete applications; if you hand in your application with one or several documents listed above missing, you will have to come again for a new appointment.

What else should I know?

- If your children are going to accompany you, you must submit 2 complete sets of applications for each child. Please provide the children's original birth certificate plus two copies.
- Upon your arrival the border authorities may examine whether the requirements for your entry continue to be valid. Entry may be refused by the border authorities although you are in possession of a valid visa. We advise you to carry with you documents giving evidence to the purpose of your stay.
- Once you have obtained your visa please check carefully that all entries are correct and in accordance with your application. Please inform the visa section immediately if there are any mistakes.

Family reunion to a child

Which documents do I have to submit with my visa application?

- 2 completed application form for a long-term visa
- 2 recent passport photographs (35 x 45 mm)
- your national passport (validity of which has to exceed your stay by at least three months) - original plus 2 copies
- child’s birth certificate original plus 2 copies
- child’s passport, certified copy plus 2 copies
- evidence of child’s registration (Meldebescheinigung)
- Marriage certificate of parents or if applicable certificate of recognition of paternity, Adoption decree etc. original plus 2 copies
- evidence of health insurance valid in Germany with validity until a German health insurance covers you (if applicable) - including details about coverage (at least € 30,000 and including repatriation costs) - 2 copies
- prepaid registered mail envelope with your address (if you request return by mail)

Family reunion to an EU-National

Which documents do I have to submit with my visa application?

- 2 completed application form for a long-term visa
- 2 recent passport photographs (35 x 45 mm)
your national passport (validity of which has to exceed your stay by at least three months) - original plus 2 copies
your marriage certificate - original plus 2 copies
passport of your spouse (if applicable: including his/her German residence permit) - original or certified copy plus 2 copies
evidence of registration of your spouse (Meldebescheinigung)
prepaid registered mail envelope with your address (if you request return by mail)

Notice:

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