

At a Glance: Visa for Family Reunification Joining Foreign Skilled Workers

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

- Spouse, children or parents with a valid residence permit in Germany.
- Sufficient living space in Germany for the family (not applicable in case of family reunification joining long-term mobile Blue Card holders and in case of family reunification of spouses or minor unmarried children joining holders of residence titles listed in Section 29 (5) of the Residence Act [AufenthG] (e.g. EU Blue Card, Sections 18a and 18b of the Residence Act [AufenthG])).
- Securing livelihood: this rule is dropped in case of family reunification joining long-term mobile Blue Card holders.
- Minimum age of spouses: 18 years old.

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT AT THE GERMAN EMBASSY

- Prepare the required documents: e.g. passport, proof of long-term family relationship, visa application form; if necessary: proof of German language skills, proof of secure livelihood.

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 entry visa for the purpose of family reunification joining foreigners.
- 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 A 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.
- Apply for the residence permit for the purpose of subsequent immigration of spouses (Section 30 of the Residence Act [AufenthG]) or subsequent immigration of children (Section 32 of the Residence Act [AufenthG]).
- 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.