

WORK PERMIT AND ACCOMPANYING FAMILY MEMBERS LIST OF DOCUMENTS

In order to work in Germany, you will need a residence permit before you enter.

Visa-free travel

British citizens may apply for their residence permits with the local immigration office (“Ausländerbehörde”) after arrival in Germany and without having obtained a visa prior to travelling to Germany. Please note that you need to register your new residence (“Anmeldung”) with the authorities (“Meldebehörde”) within 2 weeks of having moved in and apply for your residence permit with the local immigration office (“Ausländerbehörde”) within the first 90 days of stay in Germany. This privilege is also extended to citizens of Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Korea (Republic) and the United States of America. It is important to note that you may only take up employment once you have been issued a residence permit explicitly authorising such employment. British and other citizens privileged as above may also choose to apply for a visa prior to travel, effectively permitting employment from the first day of visa validity.

All other nationalities require a visa prior to travel to Germany.

General information

The information in this section is geared at a wide scope of individual and different cases and therefore provided as a guideline only. Additional information and documents may be required by the Diplomatic Mission. Some categories of visas under the general employment heading may only be open to certain nationalities; some categories require the applicant to hold an academic degree or a recognized vocational qualification.

Your prospective employer can facilitate visa processing by applying for pre-approval from the Federal Employment Agency (information for your employer is available [here](#) - in German).

If your visa category for academic professionals requires you to hold a German, a recognized or a comparable foreign academic degree and if you hold a foreign degree, please check whether both your degree and the awarding academic institution are listed as comparable in the official [Anabin database](#).

If either is not listed please have the degree formally assessed through a “Statement of Comparability for Foreign Higher Education Qualifications” issued by the [Central Office for Foreign Education \(ZAB\)](#). If your visa category for non-academic professionals requires that you hold a vocational qualification please ensure that it has been formally recognised by the [competent German authority](#).

Some regulated professions such as medical doctors, nurses, teachers, architects, auditors, tax advisors and more require a formal license to practise their profession in Germany. Please consult the [database](#) on recognition in regulated professions.

Should you be 45 years of age or older and on an annual salary of less than EUR 46.860 (2021 threshold) the Mission may need to sight evidence that you already made adequate retirement provisions.

Should you hold a confirmation of pre-approval (“Vorabzustimmung”) by the Federal Employment Agency (“Bundesagentur für Arbeit”) naming both you and your prospective employer you need to apply for your visa at the TLScontact Visa Application Centre. Visa applications for family members accompanying you will also be accepted by TLScontact.

If you do not hold any confirmation by the Federal Employment Agency (“Bundesagentur für Arbeit”), please apply directly with the [German Mission having jurisdiction for your place of residence](#).

List of documents

Please ensure that **2 photocopies of each document** are provided for your visa application.

Printed Visa Application form (original)

*Print the form including the barcodes **twice** and sign both copies (application forms are required for each applicant separately; all children require separate forms).*

Valid passport signed by the holder

Issued within the last 10 years and valid for at least 3 months beyond the validity of the visa applied for. The passport needs to have at least 2 subsequent blank pages.

2 photocopies of the passport biodata page

Current UK residence permit (BRP)/ visa (foreign residents only)

2 photocopies of the permit/ visa

2 fully biometric passport photos

35 x 45 mm, no older than three months, on white or off-white background. Digitally altered passport photos cannot be accepted.

Employer’s declaration (“Erklärung zum Beschäftigungsverhältnis”) - in 2 copies

- to be completed by your employer (download form [here](#));

- plus 2 copies of the job description, if not included within the Employer’s Declaration.

Confirmation of pre-approval (“Vorabzustimmung”) by the Federal Employment Agency (“Bundesagentur für Arbeit”) (if available), original and 2 photocopies

Academic/ professional curriculum vitae – in 2 copies

Only in case an academic degree is required

We will need to sight the original degree certificate or a copy either notarised by a notary public or certified by the issuing academic institution.

Please provide a translation if not in German, English or French - plus 2 photocopies of the original and translation

Print-outs from the official database in 2 copies

showing that both the qualification as well as the academic institution are listed as comparable

OR “Statement of Comparability for Foreign Higher Education Qualifications”, issued by the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) in original, plus 2 photocopies of the ZAB statement.

Only in case a vocational qualification is required

We will need to sight the original qualification or a copy either notarised by a notary public or certified by the issuing vocational institution. Please provide a translation if not in German, English or French.

○ *Plus 2 photocopies of the original and translation*

○ *Recognition notice regarding your professional qualification in original*

- plus 2 photocopies of the notice

Accompanying family members

Additional documents required for spouse/ parent/ adult child:

- Separate application form for each family member in **2 copies**
- Original passport of the family member(s) and 2 copies of biodata page of the passport(s).
- Current UK residence permit (BRP)/ visa (foreign residents only) - **in 2 copies**
- 2 fully biometric passport photos
- Marriage/ birth certificate original and 2 copies (with translation)

*If this document was issued outside the EU and is not in English or German, then it should be **translated by a certified translator.***

Additional information

Accompanying spouses of applicants in the general employment category are not generally exempt from the usual requirement regarding basic German language proficiency. [Some exemptions apply.](#)

If your application is successful, you will be issued a limited validity entry visa - similar to a UK entry clearance. Once you have arrived in Germany please register your new residence with the local authorities ("Meldebehörde") within 2 weeks of having moved in and apply for your Electronic Residence Permit with your local immigration office ("Ausländerbehörde").

Further information on living and working in Germany is available [here](#).