



# At a Glance: Visa for Skilled Workers

Visa and entry procedure for third-country nationals 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

- Equivalence or comparability of the foreign academic or vocational qualification (regulated professions: licence to practice required additionally).
- Concrete job offer in Germany or valid employment contract.
- Pay attention to the minimum salary for people over the age of 45: annual gross salary of at least EUR 49,830 (as of 2024) or provide proof of adequate provision for retirement.

**i Please consider:** As a rule, approval of the Federal Employment Agency (BA) will be obtained during the visa procedure.

## MAKE AN APPOINTMENT AT THE GERMAN EMBASSY

- Preparation of required documents: e.g. employment contract, passport, proof of the recognised degree or vocational qualification, visa application form.

**i Please consider:** Please inform yourself of whether the entry process can be accelerated with the fast-track procedure for skilled workers with the help of your employer in your individual case.

The German embassies provide information about possible waiting times for appointments and any additional documents that may be required on their websites.

Step

2

## APPLY FOR A VISA IN THE COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE

Step

3

- Bring documents in their entirety.
- Fees: EUR 75 (in local currency).

**i Please consider:** Processing times may vary from a few days to several weeks.

## ENTER GERMANY

- Issuance of visa to practice a qualified profession.
- Book flight / plan journey to Germany.

**i Please consider:** It is mandatory to have sufficient health insurance coverage prior to entering Germany.

Step

4

## APPLY FOR RESIDENCE PERMIT IN GERMANY

Step

5

- Register your home address in Germany at the Residents' Registration Office.
- Make 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 to perform skilled work (Sections 18a, 18b Residence Act [AufenthG]).
- Fees may add up to EUR 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](http://www.make-it-in-germany.com).