

Information pursuant to Article 13 and 14 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

1. Who is responsible for processing my data and how can I contact the Data Protection Commissioner?

Pursuant to Article 4 (7) of the GDPR, responsibility for the processing of your personal data lies within the Federal Foreign Office:

Federal Foreign Office
Werderscher Markt 1
10117 Berlin
Tel: +49 (0)30 18-17-0
Help desk: +49 (0)30 18-17-2000
Fax: +49 (0)30 18-17-3402
Website: www.auswaertiges-amt.de
Contact form: <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/newsroom/buergerservice-faq-kontakt>

Contact details of the Federal Foreign Office Data Protection Commissioner:

Federal Foreign Office Data Protection Commissioner
Werderscher Markt 1
10117 Berlin
Tel: + 49 (0)30 18-17-2711
Fax: +49 (0)30 18-17-5 1733
Contact form: <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/newsroom/datenschutz/kontakt-datenschutz>

2. What data does the Federal Foreign Office process when I apply for a visa, and where do the data come from?

The categories of personal data processed cover the data requested on the visa application form. Generally these include in particular your surname, name at birth, forename, date and place (including the country) of birth, gender, nationality/nationalities, civil status, current address, telephone number, email address, occupation, details of your travel document (type of document, serial number, issuing state and authority, date of issue, expiry date), your photograph and fingerprints.

The data in these categories derive from the information you provide in the course of the visa application process.

3. What data does the mission process when I issue a letter of invitation for someone to use to apply for a visa, and where do the data come from?

The categories of personal data processed cover the data requested on the visa application form about the person issuing the invitation. This includes in particular your surname and forename, your address, fax number and email address.

The data in these categories derive from the information you provide in the letter of invitation and the applicant provides in the course of the visa application process.

4. For what purposes and on what legal basis are my data collected and processed, and what happens if they are not?

Your personal data are collected and processed solely in order to ensure the correct handling of the visa application.

If you apply for a visa, you are required under Section 82 of the Residence Act (*Aufenthaltsgesetz*) to provide the data required for the processing of the application and to make available the necessary evidence. If your data are not provided, it may be that your application is rejected and the fee retained.

The legal basis is provided by Art. 6 (1) (c) and (e) and (2) GDPR in combination with Regulation (EC) No. 767/2008 (VIS Regulation) and Regulation (EC) No. 810/2009 (Visa Code) including its Annexes, and Sections 72a ff. of the Residence Act and Section 69 of the Ordinance on residence, as well as the Central Register of Foreigners implementing regulation (AZRG-DV), the Visa Warning File Act (VWDG) and further special regulations as appropriate or Sections 3, 78 ff. of the Federal Data Protection Act (BDSG 2018).

5. How long will my data be kept?

Your data are deleted as soon as they are no longer required for completion of the visa procedure. Generally they are deleted two years after the visa procedure has been completed, but at the latest five years after the final decision on the visa application.

6. Who receives my data?

Your data are transferred to third parties only where necessary for the proper conduct of the visa procedure. As part of this procedure, it may be that your personal data are passed to the competent authorities in Germany, to the responsible visa offices of other Schengen member states or to the responsible authorities in your place of habitual residence. If an external service provider is charged with carrying out individual stages of the visa application procedure, your data will be collected by or transferred to this provider as far as necessary for the completion of the application procedure. Your data are only transferred to recipients outside the European Union to the extent permissible under Chapter V of the General Data Protection Regulation.

7. What data protection rights can I exercise?

You can request information about the personal data stored about you from the abovementioned entities responsible for data processing (Article 15 GDPR). In addition, under certain conditions, you can request that your data are corrected (Article 16 GDPR), erased (Article 17 GDPR) or that processing is restricted (Article 18 GDPR). Further you have the right to data portability (Article 20 GDPR) and under certain conditions you can object to the processing of your data (Article 21 GDPR).

8. Where can I file a complaint?

You have the right to file a complaint about the processing of your personal data with a data protection supervisory authority (Article 77 GDPR). The supervisory authority responsible for the Federal Foreign Office is:

Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information (BfDI)
Husarenstraße 30, 53117 Bonn
Email: poststelle@bfdi.bund.de