



Information sheet: national visa

Visa for skilled workers holding a university degree/ EU Blue Card (Section 18g Residence Act)

Basic information

- Documents not in the English language must be submitted with a certified German translation. A translation of the personal data page of the passport is, however, not required.
- Certificates, diplomas, etc. must be presented in the original. Your original documents will be returned to you once your application has been processed.
- The visa must be approved by the Federal Employment Agency in Germany or the competent foreigner's authority. The visa can only be issued when this approval has been received.
- **Processing time is as a rule ca. 1 weeks** but can take longer in individual cases.
- Flight reservations are not required to apply for a visa – please only book when you have received your visa.
- The mission abroad reserves the right to request further documents.
- Missing documentation delays the procedure and can result in your application being rejected.
- **Please do not contact the mission abroad to check the status of your application during the normal processing period.** Such inquiries are extremely time-consuming for the visa section and can thus not be answered.
- **Please do not staple the documents**

General information

As a skilled worker with a university degree recognized in Germany, you will be issued with an EU Blue Card if the employment you want to take up matches your professional qualifications and you can present a contract of employment certifying a gross annual salary of at least € 50 700 in 2026 (for STEM occupations - scientists, mathematicians, engineers, doctors and IT specialists - at least € 45 934,20)

Use the following checklist to make sure your application documents are complete. All documents listed here are to be submitted in the requested **form and order**.

Visa application checklist

	The following documents are to be submitted in full with every application.	Missing
	One fully completed and signed application including declaration pursuant to Section 54 Residence Act	
	One recent biometric passport photo (see specimen photos)	
	Valid and personally signed passport with at least two completely empty pages	
	One uncertified copy of the data page of our valid passport	
	Completed form signed by your employer: <u>Declaration of employment</u> (original with one copy) There is a minimum salary requirement for the EU Blue Card which is set once a year by the Federal Ministry of the Interior. In 2026, the minimum gross annual salary requirements are: • € 45 934,20 for scientists, mathematicians, engineers, doctors and IT specialists (so-called STEM occupations) and • € 50 700 for all other occupations.	
	Proof of qualification: University qualification (all pages, original and one copy)	
	Proof of recognition of the qualification: • One printout from the anabin database on the qualification and on the institution or (if the qualification is not assessed as "entspricht" (comparable) or "gleichwertig" (equivalent) and/or the institution is not classified as "H+") • Statement of Comparability by the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) (original with one copy) or (in the case of regulated professions in which permission is required to exercise the profession, for example, doctors, engineers; complete list is available from the Federal Employment Agency or the European Commission) • Permission to exercise a profession issued by the authority responsible for recognizing qualifications or assurance of permission to exercise a profession (original and one copy) (for example, for medical professions: decision of the licensing authority in the federal territory, i.e. assurance of permission to exercise a profession and/or issuing of medical license) More information on recognition: www.anerkennen-in-deutschland.de	
	Proof of adequate health insurance cover If as an employee you are subject to mandatory statutory health insurance, you must bear in mind that this insurance can only begin when you take up residence in Germany and enter into employment. If you enter Germany beforehand, private health insurance must be taken out for the period prior to employment beginning and prior to being eligible for statutory health insurance. In its terms and conditions, travel health insurance can exclude protection if a long-term or permanent stay is planned. So-called incoming travel insurance can also contain such exclusions.	
	Signed information pursuant to section 82 (1) sentence 6 of the Residence Act (AufenthG) (Requirement to inform of any change of employer and employment status)	
Applicant of a nationality other than South African		
	Proof of habitual abode by South Africa	

