



Information sheet: national visa

Visa for skilled workers holding a university degree (Section 18b 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 and, where applicable, the competent foreigner's authority in Germany. The visa can only be issued when this approval has been received.
- **Processing time is as a rule ca. 4 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 an academic qualification recognised in Germany, you can be issued with a residence permit to engage in skilled employment that your qualification enables you to perform.

You can find out more about living and working in Germany at
www.make-it-in-germany.com

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 also in the case of persons travelling together (e.g. spouses or children).

	Missing
One (1) fully completed and signed application including declaration pursuant to Section 54 Residence Act	
One (1) recent biometric passport photo (see specimen photos)	
Valid and personally signed passport with at least two (2) completely empty pages	
One (1) uncertified copy of the data page of your valid passport	
Completed form signed by your employer: Declaration of employment (original with one (1) copy)	
From the age of 45: Proof of adequate provision for old age (original and one (1) copy (only if salary does not amount to at least 55% of the annual contribution assessment ceiling for the general pension insurance scheme – 2026: € 55 770 gross per annum))	
Proof of qualification: University qualification (all pages, original and one (1) copy)	
Proof of recognition of the qualification: - One (1) printout from the anabin database on the qualification and on the institution <i>or (if the qualification is not assessed as “entspricht” (comparable) or “gleichwertig” (equivalent) and/or the institution is not classified as “H+”)</i> - Statement of Comparability by the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) (original with one (1) copy) <i>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)</i> - Permission to exercise a profession issued by the authority responsible for recognising qualifications or assurance of permission to exercise a profession (original and one (1) 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 licence)	
More information on recognition: www.anerkennung-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.	
Applicant of a nationality other than South African	
Proof of habitual abode by South Africa	
Fee	
Visa fee of 75 €. Payable in Rand.	
Completeness of application	

The application is complete: ☐ Yes ☐ No, the information/documents indicated above are lacking.

Declaration when applications are not complete:

I have been informed that my application is not complete. I am aware that submitting an incomplete application can lead to the application being rejected. I would like to submit my application nevertheless.

place, date, signature