



Information sheet: national visa

Visa for IT specialists with professional experience

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 foreigners 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 an IT specialist with significant professional experience (at least 3 years professional experience in the last 7 years), you can be issued with a residence permit to engage in skilled employment in jobs in the field of information and communications technology even without completing a university degree or vocational qualification if the gross annual wage is at least 45 630 € from 01.01.2026. As a rule, proof of German language skills at B1 level are required but exceptions can be made in duly substantiated cases. The certificate must be dated within the last 12 months.

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.

	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 passport (personally signed 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 as an IT specialist (original with one (1) copy)	
The necessary minimum wage is set by the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community once a year. From 01.01.2026, the minimum wage is 3 802,50 € monthly or 45 630 € per annum.	
Proof of German language skills (B1, original and one (1) copy). exceptions can be made - The certificate must be dated within the last 12 months.	
Proof of professional experience in the IT sphere (at least three years in the last seven years) (original and one (1) copy)	
Proof of relevant theoretical knowledge (training courses or examinations) (original and one (1) copy)	
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	
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Fee

Processing fee of 75 €. Payable in Rand.	
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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