

National Visa for Family Reunion Visa
– joining German spouse, fiancé(e), minor child –
 (Section 27 ff. Residence Act and Section 7 (1) Residence Act)

General Information

You are required to obtain a residence permit in the form of a visa if

- you are married/will get married to a German citizen
- you are a parent of a German minor child

and wish to seek gainful permanent residency in Germany.

Once all required documents have been submitted, the application and supporting documents will be forwarded to the Immigration Office at the intended place of residence in Germany. The standard processing time can take up to 12 weeks, but processing times can vary if additional documents are required. As soon as the application has been approved by the Immigration Office, the Embassy/Consulate will issue a national visa for the first 90 days of the intended stay. A final residence permit for a longer period will be issued upon arrival by the Immigration Office. A family reunion visa does also entitle its holder to enter other Schengen countries for a stay of up to 90 days for tourism purposes.

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

Visa application checklist

Please use the following checklist to make sure that your documents are complete.
Please submit the documents listed below in according order.
Please do not staple any documents.
Incomplete documentation may result in the rejection of your application.

Original required	Copy required	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fully completed and signed application and signed declaration
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	One (1) recent biometric passport photo (see specimen photos)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Signed passport meeting the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Its validity must exceed the duration of the intended stay in Germany by at least 3 months b. It must contain at least 2 blank pages c. It must have been issued (not extended!) within the past 10 years
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Residence permit in the U.S., e.g. Visa, Green Card, U.S. passport
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proof of address, e.g. valid driver’s license, utility bill, lease
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	When applying for family reunion to join your spouse → Marriage certificate
		When applying for a “fiancé(e)s visa” in order to marry a German national → Proof of filing a notice of intended marriage “Anmeldung zur Eheschließung” with the appropriate Registrar’s Office in Germany

→ more information on following page(s)

Original required	Copy required	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	When applying for family reunion to join your German minor child → Birth certificate of your German minor child
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Proof of German language skills at least level A1 when joining spouse or fiancé(e)</p> <p>Competency in the German language means that the applicant has the ability to communicate in German on at least a basic level, i.e. holds a certificate of successful completion of a German language course level A1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. Certificates issued by an institution, which performs testing in accordance with the standards of the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE), are accepted. These requirements are only met by the Goethe-Institute (www.goethe.de).</p> <p>→ Proof of German language skills are not required if the applicant seeks a family reunion with a German minor child.</p> <p>→ For further possible exceptions from proof of language skills, please consult the website of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Supporting letter issued by the applicant's spouse or the minor child's parent(s) to set up joint residence in Germany with informal declaration on how to secure livelihood in Germany</p> <p>Further documents may be requested when applying for a "fiancé(e)s visa"</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Passports data page of the applicant's spouse/fiancé(e)/minor child
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Registration in Germany ("Meldebescheinigung") of the spouse/fiancé(e)/minor child
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Proof of adequate health insurance coverage</p> <p>Health insurance coverage is required at the time of entry into the Schengen area. Proof can be provided by presenting the health insurance policy of the family member for whom the reunification is taking place and a letter from the health insurance company stating that the person entering the country will be included in the family insurance upon entry.</p>

→ more information on following page(s)

Visa application fees

Processing fee:

Payable in cash only.

Conversion into USD is made based on the exchange rate at the time of the application.

Completeness of application

The application is complete:

Yes No, the documents/information indicated above are lacking.

Declaration when application is 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

This information sheet has been prepared with utmost care. It is intended to provide a point of reference to our clients but may not be fully applicable to every individual case. If you have further, more specific questions which are not answered by the information contained here nor on our website www.germany.info/visa, please contact the German Embassy/Consulate General serving your U.S. home state.