

Information on how to apply for tourist and business visas*

Who needs a visa?

This form provides information for foreign citizens that normally require a visa for entry into the Federal Republic of Germany and wish to stay here for up to three months for tourist or business purposes.

An overview of the countries whose citizens require/do not require a visa to enter the Federal Republic can be found on the Internet pages of the [Federal Foreign Office](#).

Where can I get a visa?

Visa applications are processed and visas are issued by the foreign missions of the Federal Republic of Germany (embassies and consulates general) in the applicant's respective country of origin or authorized residence. **These alone may decide on whether to issue a visa.**

How can I apply for a visa?

Application forms are issued by the relevant German mission abroad, to where the completed application must also be submitted. The application must include the exact purpose of entry into and stay in Germany as well as the location and duration of the applicant's intended stay. Additional information may be required depending on the purpose of the stay.

What should I bear in mind about tourist visas?

German missions abroad decide under their own responsibility whether to issue a visa for business trips of up to three months.

Visitors on tourist or business visas must provide proof that their living costs are covered and they have sufficient health insurance cover. If these will be provided by a reference person staying on federal territory, a formal obligation declaration in accordance with §68 of the German Residence Act must be submitted together with the visa application.

* This does not apply to citizens of European Union Member States, EEA countries or Switzerland

The formal obligation must be made on the standard form available from the Berlin State Administration Authority (Address: Landesamt fuer Buerger und Ordnungsangelegenheiten, Zentrale Ordnungsaufgaben Einwohnerwesen (II Ord 31), Friedrichstrasse 219, D-10958 Berlin, telephone: +49 (0)30 90269 2000), where it must be returned for certification (fee: € 25).

If the applicant intends to cover his own living costs for the duration of his stay, proof of solvency must be supplied when filing the application.

What should I bear in mind about business visas?

German missions abroad decide under their own responsibility whether to issue a visa for business trips of up to three months.

What should I bear in mind when making several business trips a year?

Visas with a validity period of up to five years may also be issued to business travelers provided the duration of their stay does not exceed three months in any six-month period. In these cases, the German mission abroad involves the Foreigners' Authority, if required.

Having assessed the application, the Foreigners' Authority forwards its statement to the German mission abroad, which then decides whether to issue a visa.

General information:

This data sheet is based on "normal" cases. Please note that deviations are possible in individual cases.