

## Visa for skilled workers with vocational training qualification (Section 18a Residence Act)

### General information

As a skilled worker with vocational training qualification, you can be issued with a residence permit to engage in skilled employment that your qualification enables you to perform.

Please note that some university degrees from foreign universities are classified as vocational training qualifications in Germany.

You can find out more about living and working in Germany at [www.make-it-in-germany.com](http://www.make-it-in-germany.com)

Use the following checklist to make sure your application documents are complete. Please make sure to prepare **two complete sets** of the following documents **collated in the order listed below** and bring them to your appointment. Incomplete documentation may result in the rejection of your application.

### Visa application checklist

The following documents are to be submitted in full with every application.

- Two (2) fully completed and signed [applications](#) including [declarations](#) pursuant to Section 54 Residence Act
- Two (2) recent biometric passport photos ([see specimen photos](#))
- Valid and personally signed passport – issued within the last 10 years, with at least 2 blank (visa) pages
- Two (2) uncertified copies of the data page of your valid passport
- Residence permit in the U.S., e.g. Visa, Green Card, U.S. passport
- Proof of address, e.g. valid driver's license, utility bill, lease
- Completed form signed by your employer: [Declaration of employment](#) (original with two (2) copies)
- From the age of 45: Proof of adequate provision for old age (original and two (2) copies (only if salary does not amount to at least 55% of the annual contribution assessment ceiling for the general pension insurance scheme – 2021: 46,860 € gross/per annum))
- Notification of recognition of foreign vocational training:** Written notification of the agency responsible for recognition of vocations in Germany (original and two (2) copies)

*or (in the case of regulated professions in which permission is required to exercise the profession, for example, in the care sector; complete list is available from the [Federal Employment Agency](#) or the [European Commission](#))*

**Permission to exercise a profession** issued by the authority responsible for recognising qualifications or assurance of permission to exercise a profession (original and two (2) copies) (for example, for medical professions)

More information on recognition: [www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de](http://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de)



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Proof of qualification, for example, diplomas, certificates, work log with translation and proof of completion (original and two (2) copies)

Proof of housing in Germany incl. full address (e.g. rental agreement, hotel reservation or invitation letter in case of private accommodation with name, full address and passport copy of the inviting person)

Proof of adequate health insurance cover

Health insurance coverage is required at the time of entry into Germany. Usually statutory health insurance coverage provided by the university or future employer only goes into effect when you take up residency and enter into employment/begin with your studies.

If you enter before, an additional private (travel) health insurance in line with [EU standards](#) (covering the entire Schengen area, minimum coverage of 30,000 €) must be purchased for the duration of time until you begin your employment/your studies and are covered through the statutory health insurance. Please ensure that your travel health insurance does not exclude protection if a long term or permanent stay is planned

#### Fee

[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 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

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](http://www.germany.info/visa), please contact the German Embassy/Consulate General serving your U.S. home state.