

Visa for skilled workers seeking employment (Section 20 Residence Act)

General information

The visa for seeking employment enables interested foreign skilled workers with vocational training or holding a university degree recognised in Germany to come to Germany for a maximum of six months to find a job that their qualification enables them to perform. If you find an employer within half a year, you do not need to leave again but can apply for the necessary residence permit from the foreigners authority responsible for you in Germany. During your stay to seek employment, you are not allowed to take up gainful employment with the exception of work on a trial basis for up to 10 hours per week.

You can find out more about living and working in Germany here: <https://www.make-it-in-germany.de>

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
- Proof of **recognition of foreign qualification:**

In the case of skilled workers with **vocational training:**

-> **Notification of recognition of foreign vocational training:** Written notification of the agency in Germany responsible for recognition of vocational training (original and two (2) copies)

In the case of skilled workers holding a **university degree:**

-> Two (2) **printouts from the [anabin database](#)** on the qualification and on the institution

or (if the qualification is not assessed as “entspricht” (comparable) or “gleichwertig” (equivalent) and/or the institution is not classified as “H+”)



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-> **Statement of Comparability** by the [Central Office for Foreign Education \(ZAB\)](#)
(original with two (2) copies)

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](#))

-> **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: 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.erkennung-in-deutschland.de

Proof of qualification (original and two (2) copies): University degree (all pages). *If your university degree does not state the courses you studied, please also submit your transcript Curriculum vitae with one (1) extra copy*

Letter of motivation for seeking employment with one (1) copy. From the information supplied, it must be recognisable what fields of work and jobs interest you, where you want to apply and what accommodation you will use

In the case of skilled workers **with recognized vocational training**: Proof of German language skills at B1 level in the form of a recognized language diploma (original and two (2) copies)

Curriculum vitae in tabular form indicating professional experience to date with one (1) extra copy

Proof of adequate financial means

Financing

To stay in Germany the applicant must have at their disposal **at least 947 € per month**. Proof of these means (blocked account to cover all costs) is to be provided in advance when the application is submitted. When submitting an application, financial means totalling **at least 5,682 €**.

In the case of financing in the form of a blocked account: Open the [blocked account](#) in good time **BEFORE** you apply for a visa. When applying for a visa, **only the official confirmation of the opening of the account** including information on the amount paid in and the amount available per month will be accepted. A confirmation, which does not include this information, is not sufficient.

Proof of adequate health insurance cover

Health insurance in line with [EU standards](#) (covering the entire Schengen area, minimum coverage of 30,000 €, valid from the day of entry for the entire stay)



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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, please contact the German Embassy/Consulate General serving your U.S. home state.