



Research Visa

General information:

All persons who wish to work as a researcher at an institution in Germany based on a research agreement (**Aufnahmevereinbarung** / Vertrag zur Erteilung der Aufenthaltserlaubnis nach § 20 Aufenthaltsgesetz – **Hosting agreement** / Contract for issuance of a residence permit according to Section 20 of the German Residence Act) are required to obtain a residence permit (including their spouses and minor children) in the form of a research visa in order to enter Germany.

Researchers without a hosting agreement might be eligible to apply for a work visa according to § 5 Beschäftigungsverordnung / § 5 Employment Ordinance depending on their invitation. Please see information sheet “Work Visa” for further information

Once all required documents have been submitted, the application and supporting documents will be forwarded to the appropriate Aliens Authority (*Ausländerbehörde*) at the applicant’s intended place of residence during his/her stay in Germany. The processing usually takes approximately 4 weeks but may take longer in some cases. As soon as the application has been approved by the German authority, the Embassy/Consulate will issue a national visa for the first 6 months of the intended stay. A final residence permit for the whole duration of stay will be issued upon arrival in Germany by the Aliens’ Authority.

Although the visa is called a “national visa”, please note that it does also entitle its holder to enter other Schengen countries for a stay of up to 90 days for tourism purposes.

Required documents:

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.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Valid passport – issued within the past 10 years, providing a minimum of 2 blank pages.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Application form – duly and fully completed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Declaration of accuracy of information
<input type="checkbox"/>	Passport sized photos – no older than three months, must meet biometric standards
<input type="checkbox"/>	Copies of the passport’s data page
<input type="checkbox"/>	Residence permit in the U.S. , e.g. Visa, Green Card, US passport
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof of address , e.g. valid driver’s license, utility bill, lease
<input type="checkbox"/>	Original and copy of the Hosting agreement/Contract for issuance of a residence permit according to Section 20 of the German Residence Act
<input type="checkbox"/>	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)



<input type="checkbox"/>	University degree, original and copy, AND if applicable: official translation into German or English
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof of travel health insurance for the first 90 days of your stay with a minimum coverage of 30.000 EUR (see here for detailed requirements).

The German missions in the US reserve the right to ask for **additional documents** at any time during the processing of your application whenever deemed appropriate. Presenting the aforementioned documents does not guarantee that a visa will be granted.

Fees:

The visa fee amounts to 75 EUR and is payable in USD in cash only. Conversion into USD is made based on the exchange rate at the time of application.

Additional information:

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

The German missions in the U.S. cannot accept any responsibility for inaccuracies contained in this information sheet.