



Family Reunion Visa – joining German spouse, fiancé(e) or child

General information:

If you are married or will get married to a German citizen, or if you are a parent of a German child and wish to seek gainful permanent residency in Germany (or staying in Germany longer than 3 months), you are required to obtain a residence permit in the form of a visa.

Once all required documents have been submitted, the application and supporting documents will be forwarded to the appropriate German authorities at the applicant's intended place of residence and employment during his/her stay in Germany. The processing can take up to 12 weeks. As soon as the application has been approved by the German authority, 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 (usually the first year of studies in Germany) will be issued upon arrival by the Aliens' Authority.

Although the family reunion 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"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • original marriage certificate, when applying for a spouse reunion visa • original birth certificate of your German child, when applying for family reunion to join your German child • proof of filing a notice of intended marriage with the appropriate Registrar's Office (“Anmeldung zur Eheschließung”) in Germany, when applying for a “fiancé(e)s visa” in order to marry a German national
<input type="checkbox"/>	Passport copy of the German spouse/child/fiancé(e)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof of German language skills , at least level A1 (please check ¹⁾ below for further information), when joining spouse or fiancé(e).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Copy of the spouse's registration in Germany (“Meldebescheinigung”)
<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"/>	Letter of invitation issued by the spouse/other parent/fiancé(e)

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.

1) German language skills:

In order to facilitate integration, applicants must prove basic German skills when applying for a visa.

Competency in the German language in this case 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. For information on language tests at the Goethe-Institute, please visit their webpage: www.goethe.de

Exception:

- If the applicant shows sufficient German language skills by the time of the visa application at the consulate, no further proof would be required.
- If the applicant seeks a family reunion with a German child
- If the applicant joins spouse in Germany temporarily (please submit documents proving that only a temporary stay is intended)

Other exceptions may apply. This can only be determined after reviewing **ALL** documents during your appointment.

Fees:

The visa is being issued free of charge.

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.