



National Visa for Research Stay

(Section 18d Residence Act)

General Information

Researchers are third-country nationals who

1. hold a doctoral degree or appropriate German or foreign university degree giving access to doctoral programs, and
1. have been selected by a research institution and admitted to the territory of a Member State, and
2. pursue a research activity for which such a degree is normally required.

This also includes doctoral students who are enrolled at a foreign university and want to travel to Germany for research. If you are enrolled at a German university to complete a full-time doctoral study in Germany, please refer to the checklist “Doctorate students”.

Visa application checklist

Please use the following checklist to make sure that your documents are complete.

Please submit the documents listed below in according order.

Please do not staple any documents.

Incomplete documentation may result in the rejection of your application.

Original required	Copy required	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fully completed and signed application and signed declaration
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	One (1) recent biometric passport photo (see specimen photos)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Signed passport meeting the following requirements: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Its validity must exceed the duration of the intended stay in Germany by at least 3 months b. It must contain at least 2 blank pages c. It must have been issued (not extended!) within the past 10 years
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Residence permit in the U.S., e.g. Visa, Green Card, U.S. passport
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proof of address, e.g. valid driver’s license, utility bill, lease
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hosting agreement (“Aufnahmevereinbarung”) or relevant contract with a German research institute signed by both parties. The research agreement/relevant contract needs to contain certain information. You can find a specimen here .
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Qualification → Proof of doctoral degree or → University degree that allows access to doctorate programs (all pages) If your university degree does not state the courses you studied, please also submit your transcript.

→ more information on following page(s)



Original required	Copy required	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>If the research institution is not primarily public funded and thus not listed by the Federal Office of Migration and Refugees (BAMF):</p> <p>→ An (either general or individual) declaration of assumption of costs related to the stay of the researcher</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Proof of adequate financial means</p> <p>To stay in Germany the applicant must have at their disposal at least 1,027.00 EUR per month if they are not entering into a contract of employment. Proof of these financial means can be provided through the admission agreement/relevant contract.</p> <p>In the case of financing in the form of a blocked account: Open the blocked account 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.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>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)</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Proof of adequate health insurance coverage</p> <p>Health insurance coverage is required at the time of entry into the Schengen area. 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.</p> <p>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 EUR) 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.</p>

→ more information on following page(s)



Visa application fees

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 documents/information indicated above are lacking.

Declaration when application is 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.