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EU long-term residence permit - application

You have lived legally in Germany for at least 5 years with a residence title? Then, you will be granted a permanent EU long-term residence permit upon application if you meet the requirements.

Compared to the permanent settlement permit (Niederlassungserlaubnis), which is also unlimited, the EU long-term residence permit offers you greater mobility within and outside the EU (see "More information").

The EU long-term residence permit cannot be issued to foreigners with a residence title granted:

- for international law, humanitarian or political reasons (exception: the residence title was issued in accordance with Section 23 (2), Section 23 (4), Section 25 (1) or Section 25 (2) AufenthG),
- for the purpose of training and further education or study, or
- for any other temporary purpose.

In these cases, however, the granting of a permanent settlement permit (Niederlassungserlaubnis) may be possible (see "More information")

Procedure

1. Please note the following information before submitting an application:

- **Please use the Quick-Checks first (under “Do it online now”)** to find out quickly and easily whether your application is likely to be successful.
- Check once again whether you meet all the requirements and have the documents and evidence listed in the “Documents required” section.
- The online application is extensive, so it will take some time to complete. However, you can interrupt the application at any time, save it temporarily and continue at a later date.

2. Carry out the online application „Niederlassungserlaubnis allgemein / Erlaubnis zum Daueraufenthalt-EU“

- Please have all the necessary documents ready for this in PDF format if possible. However, you can also still photograph and upload the documents during the application process using your smartphone or tablet. The following file formats are accepted: PDF, JPG, JPEG, and PNG. The total size of your files must not exceed 100 MB. A single file must not exceed 7 MB in size.
- Before you can send off the application, you need to pay the service fee.
- At the end you will receive a PDF document to confirm your application. This document will certify that your current residence title remains valid in the federal territory beyond the previous validity date. (This does not apply if you hold a Schengen visa (C visa) for a short-term stay).
- Please therefore make sure to save this document and print a copy if possible.

3. Once you have carried out the online application, we will check it and then contact you as soon as possible. Where necessary, we will request further documents.

4. If your application is considered to be successful, you will be given an appointment for an in-person interview.

- Because of the high number of applications, however, this can take some time. We ask you for your understanding and patience.
- Please bring all documents in the original specified in the invitation letter.

Prerequisites

- **You have reached the age of 18 and are therefore of legal age**
- **You currently have a valid residence title**

The issue of an EU long-term residence permit is excluded if your current residence title was issued for one of the following reasons:

- for international law, humanitarian or political reasons (exception: the residence title was issued in accordance with Section 23 (2), Section 23 (4), Section 25 (1) or Section 25 (2) AufenthG),
- for the purpose of training and further education or study (Section 16a or Section 16b AufenthG) or
- for any other temporary purpose.

- **Continuous legal residence in Germany for at least 5 years with a residence title**

- Residence titles in this sense are in particular: national visa, residence permit, EU Blue Card, permanent settlement permit.
- The period of an asylum procedure is taken into account if a residence permit was subsequently issued in accordance with Section 25 (1) or Section 25 (2) AufenthG.
- Half of the period of legal residence for purposes of study or vocational training is taken into account.
- If you have been living in Germany for at least 2 years with an EU Blue Card issued by Germany, previous periods of residence in another EU Member State can also be taken into account.

The following periods are NOT taken into account

- with a residence title for purposes that are, by their very nature, temporary (e.g. to attend school, language course, employment as an au pair or specialty cook)
- with and before a temporary suspension of deportation status (Duldung) is granted

- **Secured livelihood through own income**

- Your livelihood and that of your close family members (spouse/life partner and children) is secured. You must not receive or be entitled to any benefits from a job center or social welfare office under the second or twelfth German Social Code (such as the Bürgergeld citizen's allowance or social assistance).
- In the case of a domestic partnership in the context of a marriage or same-sex civil partnership, proof of income can also be provided by the spouse or civil partner.
- With the Quick Check (under "Do it online now") you can check free of charge whether your income currently covers your living expenses.

- **Adequate health and nursing care insurance**

(https://www.berlin.de/einwanderung/_assets/merkblatt_zur_krankenversicherung_englisch_.pdf)

You and the family members living with you are insured against the risk of illness and the need for long-term care, either in the statutory health insurance or in a comparable private health insurance. Foreign health insurance is not sufficient.

- **Adequate retirement provision**

From the age of 67 you must have a pension that covers your maintenance needs.

- You have either acquired pension entitlements by paying (usually at least 60) contributions into the statutory pension insurance scheme or into a private pension scheme with comparable benefits.
- Self-employed persons can also prove that they have adequate private pension provision through their own assets or business assets.
- In the case of a domestic partnership in the context of a marriage or same-sex civil partnership, proof of old-age provision can also be provided by the spouse or civil partner.

- **In certain cases: No proof of retirement provision required**

- If you are age 67 or
- expenses for an old-age pension are not possible due to a physical, mental or psychological illness or disability as determined by a medical specialist

- **No indications of a threat to public safety or order**

- Fines alone can prevent the granting of an EU long-term residence permit.
- An application for an EU long-term residence permit may not be processed while investigation proceedings are ongoing.
- You pose no threat to the free democratic basic order or the security of the Federal Republic of Germany.
- You are not involved in acts of violence in pursuit of political or religious goals, do not publicly call for the use of violence and do not threaten to do so.

- **Sufficient command of German**

- Sufficient German language skills corresponding to level B 1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).
- The fulfilment of this requirement can be proven in particular by successful completion of an integration course.
- Proof of language proficiency is not required if learning German is unreasonable due to a permanent physical, mental or psychological illness. A specialist medical certificate is required for this.

- **Basic knowledge of the German legal and social order**

Basic knowledge is assumed to be present in particular if

- an integration course or the "Living in Germany" orientation course has been successfully completed,
- an educational or vocational qualification was obtained in Germany or
- you have completed at least one year of schooling or vocational training in Germany.

This basic knowledge is not required if it would be unreasonable to expect it to be acquired due to a permanent physical, mental or psychological illness. A specialist medical certificate is required for this.

- **Sufficient living space**

You have sufficient living space for yourself and the family members living with you at home.

- **Main residence in Berlin**

You live in Berlin. A second residence in Berlin is not sufficient.

- **Current email address**

The Berlin Immigration Office will contact you via your current email address. Please also check your spam folder regularly.

- **For the online application: Consent to the electronic payment process**

The following methods of payment are available to you:

- Credit card (Visa, Mastercard)
- Paypal

Documents required

- **Application for an EU long-term residence permit (with Quick-Check)**

- only possible online
- You will receive a PDF document to confirm your application. This document will certify that your current residence title remains valid in the federal territory beyond the previous validity date. (This does not apply if you hold a Schengen visa (C visa) for a short-term stay).
- Please therefore make sure to save this document and print a copy if possible.

- **In the case of an application being filed by an authorised representative: power of attorney stating the subject matter of the procedure**

- **Passport copies (in color)**

Copies of the data pages of your passport or passport replacement (with your photo and personal data) are required.

- **Copy of your current residence title**

- **If you or your spouse/life partner are employed: Proof of livelihood**

- Employment contract,
- Proof of net salary for the last 6 months (wage slips, bank statements),
- current certificate from the employer (not older than 14 days) and
- Pension insurance history

- **If you or your spouse/life partner work self-employed or freelance: Proof of livelihood**

- last tax assessment statement
- completed audit report form (Prüfungsbericht) together with the documents specified therein (the audit report must be completed by a tax consultant, auditor or tax agent) and
- Certification of tax-related matters from the tax office (see section "Further information") and
- For self-employed persons: extract from the commercial register or business registration (if no entry in the commercial register is required)
- For freelancers: Registration as a freelancer with the tax office and chamber of commerce entry (if required)

- **If you are not gainfully employed: Proof of livelihood**

For example:

- Assessment notice for Unemployment Benefit I (Arbeitslosengeld I)
- Pension assessment notice
- Proof of assets
- Notification of receipt of citizen's allowance (Bürgergeld) or social

assistance

- Receipt of BAföG or vocational training allowance (Sozialhilfe)

- **Proof of other benefits**

Depending on your life situation, you may need to upload further proof for the online application, for example: Parental allowance, child benefit, housing benefit, child supplement, orphan's pension, integration bonus (Einstiegsgeld), proof of maintenance payments

- **For pupils, trainees, students: certificates**

- School certificate, training certificate or certificate of enrollment
- Training contract
- All school or vocational school certificates

- **Proof of health and long-term care insurance in Germany**

- If you have statutory health insurance: electronic health card (copy front and back) or a current confirmation from the health insurance company
- In the case of private health insurance: certificate from the insurer regarding the scope and costs of the insurance in accordance with § 257 Para. 2a SGB V. Please point out to your insurer that you need the certificate for a permanent residence title.

- **Proof of the size and cost of the living space**

The floor space and the monthly rent or housing costs of your own property (house or apartment) must be demonstrated as follows.

In the case of a rental property:

- Tenancy agreement (without house rules or other annexes) and
- Proof of the current monthly costs (rent with utility costs included – “Warmmiete”), e.g. bank statements

In the case of an owned property:

- extract from the land register, third section,
- costs of the home-owner charges and
- possible monthly loan costs for the property

- **Proof of old-age provision**

- Pension information from the German Pension Insurance (Deutsche Rentenversicherung) or
- Proof of entitlement to comparable benefits from another insurance or pension institution
- Proof of income from own assets or business assets

- **After vocational training or studies in Germany: Proof of the degree achieved**

Certificates

- **Proof of German language skills at level B 1 of the CEFR**

In particular, the following proof is possible:

- language certificate with an overall result of B 1 of the CEFR or an equivalent or higher language diploma,
- certificate of successful completion of the integration course,
- at least 4 years of successful attendance at a German general education school (promotion to the next higher grade) and an average grade of at least “sufficient” in the last school report,
- promotion to the tenth grade of a general education German school,
- acquisition of vocational qualification or an equivalent level of education or school leaving certificate from a general education school,
- successful completion of a German-language qualified vocational

training,

- successful completion of a German-language course of study at a university or university of applied sciences or
- German-language doctorate from a German university

- **Evidence of knowledge of the German legal and social order**

In particular, the following proof is possible:

- certificate of successful completion of the integration course,
- certificate of successful completion of the orientation course,
- certificate of successful completion of the “Test Living in Germany”,
- certificate of successful completion of the naturalization test,
- at least 4 years of successful attendance at a German general education school (promotion to the next higher grade) and an average grade of at least “sufficient” in the last school report,
- promotion to the tenth grade of a general education German school,
- acquisition of vocational qualification or an equivalent level of education or school leaving certificate from a general education school,
- successful completion of a German qualified vocational training or completion of a corresponding training in Germany for at least one year,
- successful completion of a degree at a German university or university of applied sciences,
- German-language doctorate from a German university or
- obtaining a state license to practice the profession independently (approbation)

- **In the case of physical, mental or psychological illness or disability: Medical certificate**

Forms

- **Audit report form (Prüfungsbericht) for self-employed and freelancers**

(https://www.berlin.de/formularverzeichnis/?formular=/labo/zuwanderung/_asets/pruefungsbericht_bis.docx)

Fees

- 54.50 Euro: Processing fee (for the online application)
- 54.50 Euro: Issuing fee (for in-person appointments)

For Turkish nationals up to the age of 24

- 13.80 Euro: Processing fee (for the online application)
- 13.80 Euro: Issuing fee (for in-person appointments)

For Turkish nationals as from the age of 24

- 23.00 Euro: Processing fee (for the online application)
- 23.00 Euro: Issuing fee (for in-person appointments)

Note: A refund of the processing fee is not possible in the event that the application is withdrawn if we have already begun to process the application (by examining the required residence time and/or the documents you sent or sending you an appointment for an in-person interview).

Legal basis

- **Aufenthaltsgesetz (AufenthG) § 9a**

(https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_aufenthg/englisch_aufenthg.html#p0143)

Average time to process request

You will receive an appointment for an interview if your application is reviewed positively. At the appointment, you will receive written confirmation of lawful residence until issue of the appointed residence title.

Following the appointment, it will take at least 4 weeks until the EU long-term residence permit is issued as an electronic residence title and can be picked up.

More information

- **Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)**
(<https://www.europaeischer-referenzrahmen.de/>)
- **Information on the EU long-term residence permit (Berlin Immigration Office)**
(<https://www.berlin.de/einwanderung/en/residence/permanent/#DA-EU>)
- **Certification of tax-related matters (service)**
(<https://service.berlin.de/dienstleistung/324713/en/>)
- **Permanent settlement permit - general (service)**
(<https://service.berlin.de/dienstleistung/121864/en/>)

Average time to process request

https://liste-antraege-bc01.bda.service.berlin.de/intelliform/forms/default/bda/LEA/Niederlassungserlaubnis_Allgemein_Quick-Check/index