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Permanent residence card for family members of citizens entitled to freedom of movement from the EU (except Germany) and the EEA

Permanent residence card for family members of citizens entitled to freedom of movement from the EU (except Germany) and the EEA (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway) after (generally) 5 years of residency.

Please note: Family members of Germans generally do not receive a residence card in accordance with the Freedom of Movement Act but are entitled to a permanent residence permit in accordance with the Residence Act if they themselves are not EU or EEA citizens (see under 'More information').

Exceptions are only possible if the German has acquired the right to freedom of movement by staying together with the family member in another Member State. A short stay is not sufficient for this.

Prerequisites

- **5 years of the right to freedom of movement exercised**

Family members of EU or EEA citizens receive a permanent right of residence when

- they have resided legally for an uninterrupted period of five years with the EU or EEA citizen in Germany
- and a right of freedom of movement (i.e. as an employee/self-employed person/ with sufficient means of subsistence) has been exercised throughout this time.

Legal residency alone, however, is insufficient.

- **Applicant is not an EU or EEA citizen**

Applicant is not a national of an EU member state or of Iceland, Liechtenstein or Norway

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- **Main residence in Berlin**

(https://service.berlin.de/dienstleistung/120686/de_plain/)

- **Personal appearance by appointment is required**

To schedule an appointment, please contact the relevant units, F 1 and F 2, using the contact form (see "More Information").

Documents required

- **Application for the issue of a permanent residence card (completed)**

- **Valid passport**

- **1 current biometric photo**

Please note:

- Since May 1, 2025, biometric passport photos may only be taken digitally at government offices or photo studios and transmitted via a

secure electronic channel.

- Please check the website of the Berlin Immigration Office (see “More information”) for the latest information in good time before your appointment.

- **Residence card (Aufenthaltskarte) or residence permit**
- **If you haven't lived in Berlin for 5 years: Extended resident registration information from the population register**

(<https://service.berlin.de/dienstleistung/355447/>)

If you have not been living in Berlin continuously for 5 years, please provide proof of your previous place of residence(s) in Germany.

- **Proof of the right to free movement (for the last 5 years)**
 - employees: current certificate from the employer stating the type and duration of employment
 - self-employed workers: business registration, tax number, current tax demand
 - non-employed persons: proof of health insurance and means of subsistence

Additional documents may also be required.

Forms

- **Antrag auf Ausstellung einer Daueraufenthaltskarte (Application for the issue of a permanent residence card)**

(https://www.berlin.de/formularverzeichnis/?formular=/labo/zuwanderung/_assets/mdb-f403267-labo_4330_m_antrag_daueraufenthaltsbesch_f_r_unionsb_rger_antrag_daueraufenthaltskarte_angaben_aufenthaltskarte_f_drittstaatsangeh_rige_familienang_.pdf)

Fees

- From the age of 24 years: 46.00 euros
- Until the age of 24 years: 27.60 euros

For creating a digital passport photo at the self-service terminal on site: 6.00 euros extra

Legal basis

- **Freizügigkeitsgesetz/EU (FreizügG/EU) § 4a**
(https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_freiz_gg_eu/englisch_freiz_gg_eu.html#p0052)

Average time to process request

After the appointment, it takes approximately 4 weeks for the permanent residence card to be issued as an electronic residence permit and ready for collection.

More information

- **Contact form for scheduling an appointment at units F 1 and F 2 (Berlin Immigration Office)**

(<https://www.berlin.de/einwanderung/ueber-uns/kontakt/formular.1601772.php>)

- **Digital passport photos for residence documents from 01.05.2025 (Berlin Immigration Office)**
(<https://www.berlin.de/einwanderung/ueber-uns/aktuelles/artikel.1541531.php#english>)
- **Request Extended Resident Registration Information (Service)**
(<https://service.berlin.de/dienstleistung/355447/>)
- **Example: confirmation of occupancy from the landlord (Wohnungsgeber-Bestätigung)**
(https://www.berlin.de/formularverzeichnis/?formular=/labo/zentrale-einwohnerangelegenheiten/_assets/mdb-f402544-20161102_wohnungsgeberbestaetigung.pdf)
- **Certificate of the right of permanent residence for Union citizens (EU/EEA) (Bescheinigung über das Daueraufenthaltsrecht für Unionsbürger)**
(<https://service.berlin.de/dienstleistung/324284>)
- **Permanent settlement permit for family members of German citizens (service)**
(<https://service.berlin.de/dienstleistung/327012/en/>)