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Residence permit for attending a language course

A residence permit can be issued for a maximum of one year for the purpose of attending a language course, to learn the German language, that is not administered as preparation for a course of study.

The residence permit entitles the holder to work for up to 20 hours per week. It does not permit work on a self-employed basis.

Procedure

1. Carry out the online application “Application for a residence permit for language and study purposes”.

- The application is possible at the earliest 4 months before the end of your current residence title.
- 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 (national D visa or residence permit) 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).
- The following applies to nationals of the beneficiary countries under Section 41 of the Ordinance Governing Residence (see section “More information”): Did you arrive in Germany fewer than 91 days ago and are now applying for a residence permit for the first time? Then your residence in Germany is considered lawful until a decision is made on your application. This means you can start the language course. However, you are not yet allowed to take up employment.
- Please therefore make sure to save this document and print a copy if possible.
- **Note:** Do your spouse and child live with you in Berlin and need a residence permit? Then please do not submit a separate application for them. Simply enter your family members in the spaces provided in the online application. The Berlin Immigration Office will contact you regarding residence permits for your family members.

2. Once you have carried out the online application “Application for a residence permit for language and study purposes”, we will check it and then contact you as soon as possible. Where necessary, we will request further documents.

3. If your application is considered to be successful, you will be given an appointment for an in-person interview. Please bring the originals of all the necessary documents with you to this appointment.

Prerequisites

- **Intensive language course to learn German**

For an intensive language course, it is assumed that its duration is limited from the outset; it usually includes daily lessons (at least 18 lessons per week) and is aimed at acquiring comprehensive German language skills. Evening, weekend and distance learning courses do not meet these requirements.

- **Secured livelihood**

Sufficient funds to secure your livelihood, including adequate health insurance coverage, are required. Sufficient funds are available if they correspond to the maximum BAföG funding rate.

For a stay for attending a language course, a monthly amount of 1,091.20 euros must be available, i.e. 13,094.40 euros per year (current value for the year 2026).

- **Health insurance**

You have health insurance in Germany, either through statutory health insurance or a comparable private health insurance scheme.

Travellers' health insurance will also suffice for the duration of the language course.

- **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 a residence permit for language and study purposes**

- Only online and at the earliest 4 months before your current residence title expires
- You will receive a PDF document to confirm your application. This document will certify that your current residence title (national D visa or residence permit) 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).
- The following applies to nationals of the beneficiary countries under Section 41 of the Ordinance Governing Residence (see section "Further information"): Did you arrive in the country fewer than 91 days ago and are now applying for a residence permit for the first time? Then your residence in Germany is considered lawful until a decision is made on your application. This means that you can already begin the language course. However, taking up employment is not yet permitted.
- 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 following pages of your passport are required:

- always: data pages (with your photo and personal data)
- if you have entered the country and are applying for a residence permit for the first time, also: entry stamp, as well as visa for entry or residence title for another EU Member state in your passport (if you have these)

• If you already have a residence permit for language course or another German residence title: a copy of your residence title

• Proof of health insurance: insurance card, contract

• Proof of your residence in Berlin

- Certificate of registration at the main residence (Melde-Bestätigung) or
- lease and written confirmation of occupancy from the landlord (Wohnungsgeber-Bestätigung)

More on this topic in the section "More information"

• Proof of livelihood

e.g. blocked account (Sperrkonto) at a German Bank / submission of a declaration of commitment by a third party on an official form / notarized declaration from parents securing the livelihood for the duration of the language course with proof of the income of the parents in the last six months / employment contract for a part-time job

• Proof of intensive language course

- Certification from the language school for a booked language course of at least three months
- Contract with the language school

Fees

The fee must be paid before you send off the online application (by credit card or PayPal).

- 56.00 euros: for the issue of the residence permit as a sticker label
- 100.00 euros: for the issue of the residence permit as an electronic residence permit (eAT)
- 27.60 euros: for Turkish nationals up to the age of 24
- 46.00 euros: for Turkish nationals aged 24 and over
- 6.00 euros extra: for creating a digital passport photo at the self-service terminal on site

A refund is not possible in the event that the application is withdrawn if we have already begun to process the application (by examining the documents you sent or sending you an appointment).

Legal basis

• Aufenthaltsgesetz (AufenthG) § 16f Abs. 1

(https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_aufenthg/englisch_aufenthg.html#p0343)

Average time to process request

- You will receive an appointment if your application is reviewed positively.
- A residence permit in the form of a sticker label can be issued directly on site during the appointment.
- If issued as an electronic residence permit (eAT), it takes 4 to 6 weeks before it can be collected.

More information

- **Ordinance Governing Residence (Aufenthaltsverordnung) § 41 - Privileges for nationals of certain countries**
(https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_aufenthv/englisch_aufenthv.html#p0371)
- **Certificate of registration at the main residence (Melde-Bestätigung)**
(https://service.berlin.de/dienstleistung/120686/de_plain/)
- **Example: confirmation of occupancy from the landlord (Wohnungsgeber-Bestätigung)**
(https://www.berlin.de/formularverzeichnis/?formular=/labo/zentrale-einwohnerangelegenheiten/_assets/mdb-f402544-20161102_wohnungsgeberbestaetigung.pdf)
- **Information on blocked accounts (Federal Foreign Office)**
(<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/sperrkonto/388600>)

Average time to process request

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

Notes on responsibility

This service can only be taken advantage of in the Berlin Immigration Office (Landesamt für Einwanderung - LEA) at Keplerstrasse 2.