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Residence permit for foreigners with a long-term residence in an EU member state

Foreigners who are entitled to possess the legal status of a long-term resident in an EU member state will be granted a residence permit if their stay within the territory of the Federal Republic shall last longer than three months.

Foreigners entitled to long-term residence are those who hold a residence permit (under EU Directive 2003/109/EG of 25.11.2003) bearing the designation "permanent residence EG" or "permanent residence EU" in the respective official language of the issuing EU member state.

Excluded from this are holders of a residence title issued by Great Britain, Denmark and Ireland, since these EU member states do not apply the corresponding EU directive 2003/109/EG dated 25.11.2003.

The general prerequisites for issuing a German residence permit, such as a secure livelihood, apply without restriction.

The residence permit allows gainful employment dependent upon the predominant purpose for which the residence shall serve (e.g. studies, employment, self-employed activity). The §§ 16-21 of the residence law shall be applied analogously.

Prerequisites

- **The legal status of a person with long-term residence entitlement in another EU member state**
 - The right to claim a residence permit exists as a matter of principle only then when in another EU member state a residence permit has already been issued (pursuant to the EU directive 2003/109/EG dated 25.11.2003) bearing the wording "permanent residence EG" or "permanent residence EU" in the respective official language.
 - As a rule, a temporary residence permit without this additional note is insufficient.
 - Only in exceptional cases can the status of long-term residence entitlement be proved by written confirmation issued by the competent authorities of the other EU member state. The residence permit may only be granted on a discretionary basis.
- **Main residence in Berlin**
(https://service.berlin.de/dienstleistung/120686/de_plain/)
- **Personal appearance by appointment is required**
 - Please contact the relevant unit using the contact form to make an appointment (see section "More information").

Documents required

- **Form "Antrag auf Erteilung eines Aufenthaltstitels" (Application for Issuance of a Residence Permit)**
Available in German, English, French, Italian, Greek, Turkish, Vietnamese, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, and Bosnian;

only to be completed when applying for the first time.

- **Valid passport with long-term residence ("permanent residence EU" or "permanent residence EG") of the other EU member state**
- **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.

- **Proof of Income**

e.g.

- lease,
- for students: escrow account at a German Bank or submission of a declaration of commitment by a third party on an official form,
- bank statements of the last 3 months

- **Documentation regarding the intended purpose of stay (original)**

e.g. certificate of enrolment, employment etc.

- **In certain circumstances: Form "Erklärung zum Beschäftigungsverhältnis" (filled out)**

As a rule, a temporary residence permit for the purpose of employment may only be granted if the Federal Employment Agency has agreed to this.

- **Health insurance**

- **Proof of main residence in Berlin**

- Certificate of registration at the main residence or
- lease and written confirmation of occupancy from the landlord

More on the topic in the section "More information".

Forms

- **Antrag auf Erteilung eines Aufenthaltstitels (Application for Issuance of a Residence Permit) - in German, English, French, Italian**
(https://www.berlin.de/formularverzeichnis/?formular=/labo/zuwanderung/_asets/lea-agen1-antrag_engl_frz_ital-112021.pdf)
- **Antrag auf Erteilung eines Aufenthaltstitels (Application for Issuance of a Residence Permit) - in German, Greek, Turkish, Vietnamese**
(https://www.berlin.de/formularverzeichnis/?formular=/labo/zuwanderung/_asets/lea-agen2-antrag_griech_tuerk_viet-112021.pdf)
- **Antrag auf Erteilung eines Aufenthaltstitels (Application for Issuance of a Residence Permit) - in German, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian**
(https://www.berlin.de/formularverzeichnis/?formular=/labo/zuwanderung/_asets/lea-agen3-antrag_span_port_russ-112021.pdf)
- **Antrag auf Erteilung eines Aufenthaltstitels (Application for Issuance of a Residence Permit) - in German, Serbian, Bosnian**
(https://www.berlin.de/formularverzeichnis/?formular=/labo/zuwanderung/_asets/lea-agen4_-antrag_serb_bos-112021_final.pdf)
- **Erklärung zum Beschäftigungsverhältnis (job description)**
(https://www.berlin.de/formularverzeichnis/?formular=/labo/zuwanderung/_asets/lea-agen5-antrag_serb_bos-112021_final.pdf)

Fees

- 100.00 euros: for the initial issuance of a residence permit
- 93.00 euros: for each renewal of a residence permit
- 50.00 euros: for the initial issuance of a residence permit for minors
- 46.50 euros: for each renewal of a residence permit for minors

Turkish nationals (both for the initial issuance and for renewal):

- 27.60 euros: up to the age of 24
- 46.00 euros: from the age of 24

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

Legal basis

- **Aufenthaltsgesetz (AufenthG) § 38a**
(https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_aufenthg/englisch_aufenthg.html#p0878)
- **EU Directive 2003/109/EG of 25.11.2003**
(<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02003L0109-20110520>)

Average time to process request

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

More information

- **Contact forms for making an appointment (Berlin Immigration Office)**
(<https://www.berlin.de/einwanderung/en/about-us/contact/artikel.1500715.en.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>)
- **Certificate of registration at the main residence (Melde-Bestätigung)**
(https://service.berlin.de/dienstleistung/120686/de_plain/)
- **Example: confirmation of occupancy from the landlord**
(https://www.berlin.de/formularverzeichnis/?formular=/labo/zentrale-einwohnerangelegenheiten/_assets/mdb-f402544-20161102_wohnungsgeberbestaetigung.pdf)

Notes on responsibility

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