

Naturalization

Are you a foreigner and have been living in Germany for some time? Then you can become a German citizen under certain conditions.

Fortunately, more and more foreign citizens are deciding to apply for German citizenship. Unfortunately, the increasing number of applications also leads to longer processing times.

Applications from the 1st quarter of 2023 are currently being processed. We will contact you as soon as your application is in the final processing stage.

Please note that, for reasons of equal treatment, naturalization applications are always processed according to the date of receipt.

Competent Department

- [Einbürgerung](#)

Basic information

With naturalization you receive German citizenship and become an equal citizen of the Federal Republic of Germany with all rights and obligations.

With German citizenship you can, among other things

- exercise your right to vote in the federal states and for the German Bundestag,
- enjoy freedom of movement within the European Union as a citizen of the Union,
- travel outside Europe to many countries without a visa.

If you meet the requirements, you can apply for German citizenship through naturalization.

Requirements

To obtain German citizenship, you must fulfill the following requirements:

- You live in Bremen
 - You have been resident in Germany for 5 years
 - Your identity and nationality have been clarified
 - You are committed to the Basic Law
 - You are in possession of a valid residence permit
 - You do not receive unemployment benefit II or social assistance
 - You have no criminal record
 - You have sufficient knowledge of the German language
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- You have a basic knowledge of the legal and social order and living conditions in Germany

With the so-called "Quick-Check" you have the opportunity to check without obligation whether you meet the requirements for naturalization. The "Quick-Check" is provided by the Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration. You can find the "Quick-Check" under "Further information".

Exceptions to the listed requirements are possible under certain circumstances. Further information can also be found in the "Frequently asked questions" tab. You are also welcome to contact the naturalization authority for further clarification.

What documents do I need?

- The application form describes which documents are usually required in your life situation.

Naturalization requires the submission of a variety of documents.

Which documents must be submitted depends on your personal life situation.

Procedure

1. consultation

Before you submit an application for naturalization, it makes sense to carry out a non-binding check of the naturalization requirements by using the so-called Quick Check. You can also find extensive information on the naturalization requirements on the website "Wege zur Einbürgerung" (link under "Further information" - "Where can I find out more?") and in the "Frequently asked questions" tab. We would also be happy to inform you about the naturalization requirements during a telephone consultation. For a consultation, please contact us by telephone (0421 - 361 - 88670; telephone availability: Mondays to Thursdays from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm). During the consultation, the requirements for naturalization will be explained to you and you will receive individual information on the procedure. Alternatively, you can also send us an e-mail (Einbuengerung@migrationsamt.bremen.de). Please make sure that you include your full name, date of birth and a telephone number in your e-mail.

If you are sure that you are eligible for naturalization and do not wish to receive a telephone or written consultation, you can also apply for naturalization without prior consultation. Please use the form to apply for naturalization. This can be found under "Further information".

2. submission of application

Applications can currently only be submitted by post. Please ensure that you have completed and signed the application form in full. Please only send us copies of the required documents. The fees are only due when the naturalization authority asks you to pay the fee. Please refrain from making a bank transfer. Please send the completed application form and copies of all required documents to the following address:

Migration Office

Citizenship Office

P.O. Box 10 78 49

28078 Bremen

(Alternatively: drop it in the mailbox at Stresemannstraße 48).

3. examination of your application for naturalization

Once your application has been received, your documents will be checked for completeness. If something is still missing, for example the naturalization test, you can submit these documents at a later date.

Fortunately, more and more foreign citizens are deciding to apply for German citizenship. Unfortunately, the increasing number of applications also leads to longer processing times.

Once your application for naturalization has been reviewed, we will contact you again. If the necessary requirements are met, the naturalization certificate will be issued with your personal details. You will then receive an invitation to hand over the naturalization certificate in person.

Legal bases

- [§ 10 Staatsangehörigkeitsgesetz \(StAG\)](#)

How long does it take to process

The duration of the procedure can currently be delayed and last for several months due to a large number of naturalization applications.

What are the costs?

255,00 EUR per person

51,00 EUR for minor children who apply together with you

Frequently asked Questions

- **Has the Act on the Modernization of Citizenship Law already come into force?**

The Act on the Modernization of Citizenship Law came into force on 27.06.2024. Among other things, the law provides for a reduction in the required period of residence in Germany from 8 to 5 years and the general acceptance of multiple nationality.

- **I am interested in naturalization and would like to get advice. How do I have to proceed?**

We are pleased that you are interested in naturalization. You can find extensive information on the naturalization requirements on this website and under "Further information" - "Where can I find out more?" - "Paths to naturalization".

For a non-binding check of the naturalization requirements, please use the Quick Check (see Online Service). We will also be happy to advise you by telephone on the following number 0421 - 361 - 88670 (telephone availability: Monday to Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.).

Alternatively, you can send us an e-mail (Einbuergerung@migrationsamt.bremen.de). Please ensure that you include your full name, date of birth and telephone number in your e-mail.

- **I would like to submit the naturalization application. What do I need to consider?**

Due to the current situation, it is not possible to come in person to submit your application.

Please send us the completed application with the requested documents by mail (alternatively: drop it in the house mailbox/Stresemannstraße 48). Please make sure that you only send us copies.

Please also check that you have signed the application.

Please bear in mind that each naturalization applicant who has reached the age of 16 must complete a separate application.

- **Are original documents required to submit the application?**

No, please send us only copies at first. Later in the naturalization process, we will ask you to submit some original documents.

- **I would like to submit documents relating to my naturalization application. How do I have to proceed?**

You are welcome to send us a copy of your documents by post. Please address your mail to the Naturalization Office. It would also be helpful if you could note your file number on the post.

- **What documents are required for a naturalization application?**

Exactly which documents are required depends on the applicant's life situation. Further information can be found on the application form, in a telephone consultation or by contacting us by e-mail.

- **Will the submitted passport photo also appear on the travel document or identity card?**

No, biometric photos are required to apply for an identity card or passport.

- **How long do I have to live in Germany to become a naturalized citizen?**

As a rule, an uninterrupted legal residence of 5 years in Germany is required.

Please note that only periods during which you had a residence permit can be taken into account. Periods in which you received a so-called tolerated stay permit from the immigration authorities cannot be taken into account.

- **I have not yet been a legal resident for 5 years. Can I still be naturalized?**

Yes, the residence periods can be shortened in certain individual cases. A reduction to up to 3 years is possible if

- special integration achievements, in particular particularly good educational, vocational or professional achievements or civic engagement are present,
- no social benefits are received
- the requirements of a language test at level C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages are met

Alternatively:

If you are married to a German spouse or living in a registered civil partnership with a German national, you must have three years of legal habitual residence in Germany. The marriage or registered civil partnership must have existed for two years.

- **Do I need a settlement permit to become a naturalized citizen?**

No, naturalization is also possible with a temporary residence permit.

However, naturalization is generally not possible if you have a residence permit in accordance with

according to §§ 16a, 16b, 16d, 16e, 16f, 17, 18f, 19, 19b, 19e, 20, 20a, 22, §§ 23a, 24, 25 paragraphs 3 to 5 and § 104c of the Residence Act.

- **What language level is required for naturalization?**

Language skills at B1 level are required. These are usually proven by a language certificate. Please note that the language certificate can only be recognized if the language course provider has a TELC license. The language certificate "Deutschtest für Zuwanderer" (DTZ) at language level B1 is also recognized.

Alternatively, you can also prove your language skills with a German school-leaving certificate, completed German vocational training or completed German-language studies.

- **Do I have to take a naturalization test?**

If you apply for German citizenship, you must prove knowledge of the legal and social order and living conditions in Germany by taking a naturalization test. Advice and registration for the naturalization test can be obtained from the Volkshochschulen (VHS).

If you have a German school leaving certificate, no naturalization test is required. In certain cases, a naturalization test is also not necessary if you have completed vocational training or a course of study.

- **I have already applied for naturalization. Now I have moved to Bremen or moved away from Bremen. What do I have to consider?**

If you have moved, the responsibility for processing your naturalization application changes. However, you do not have to submit a new naturalization application in your new place of residence. Please notify the previously responsible naturalization

authority of your move. They will forward the entire naturalization process to the new naturalization authority responsible.

- **Can I keep my previous citizenship after naturalization?**

Yes, under German law, all naturalization applicants have the option of retaining their previous citizenship when acquiring German citizenship without any restrictions.

However, you may lose your previous citizenship on the basis of the law of your country of origin if you naturalize in Germany. If you have any doubts, you should contact the embassy or consulate of your country of origin before naturalization.

- **When I receive the naturalization certificate, do I also receive a German passport or a German identity card at the same time?**

No, you must apply for your passport or ID card separately at the BürgerServiceCenter.

You can obtain further information by calling the public authority number 115 or on the Internet at www.service.bremen.de.

- **Can a foreign citizenship that has been lost through the acquisition of German citizenship be regained?**

Whether it is possible to re-acquire a foreign nationality that was previously lost through naturalization in Germany depends on the nationality regulations of the respective country of origin.

- **As a German citizen, can I now take on another nationality without losing my German citizenship? Is a permit required for this?**

Germans who acquire another nationality can also retain their German nationality without further ado. A retention permit is no longer required.

The conditions under which it is possible to acquire a foreign nationality depend on the nationality regulations of the country whose nationality you wish to acquire.

- **My naturalization was linked to the condition that I had to give up my other citizenship at a later date (for example, when I reach a certain age). Do I still have to fulfill this condition?**

No, the modernization of the Citizenship Act has rendered this requirement obsolete.