

Free movement of EU and EFTA citizens and their family members

You are a citizen of a member state of the European Union, i.e. an EU citizen, or you are a citizen of Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein or Switzerland (EFTA states) and live in Bremen or would like to live here? You would like to apply for a residence card as a family member?

Competent Department

- [Migrationsamt](#)
- [Aufenthalt](#)

Basic information

For EU citizens and citizens of Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland (EFTA countries) there is a right of free movement for Germany. Therefore, you do not need an application or permit for entry and residence.

Basically, you prove your right of free movement by your national passport of your country of origin or your identity card. The issuance of a proof of the right to freedom of movement is no longer done since 2013. An application or a visit to the Migration Office Bremen is therefore no longer necessary, but also no longer possible.

However, if you not only want to visit Germany/Bremen, but also want to live here, you must work, study or complete an apprenticeship in Bremen or you must be a relative of someone who is entitled to freedom of movement.

In this case it is sufficient for your legal residence that you register your residence at the Bürgeramt.

However, family members of EU or EFTA citizens who are not themselves citizens of these countries require a residence card if they wish to live in Germany/Bremen.

As soon as you have been working, studying or training in Germany/Bremen for five years, you and your family members can apply for a permanent residence certificate or permanent residence card at the Migration Office. This does not apply to Swiss nationals. You can apply for a settlement permit.

Procedure

Residence card:

If you would like to apply for the issuance of a residence card for third-country national family members, please send us the following documents by mail:

- A written informal application with a brief description of your current situation.
- For spouses: copy of the marriage certificate to the EU or EFTA citizen
- For children: birth certificate
- A copy of your national passport
- A copy of the national passport / identity card of the EU or EFTA citizen(s)
- A certificate of registration of you and your family member
- Proof of the right of free movement of your family member EEA citizen (e.g. current employment contract, proof of salary, proof of other gainful activities, pension insurance history, permanent residence certificate, proof of sufficient means of subsistence and health insurance).

If we need further documents, we will write to you. If we can issue you the residence card, we will send you an appointment.

Permanent right of residence:

If you want to apply for a certificate of permanent right of residence, please send us a copy of the following documents by mail:

- A written informal application with a brief description of your current situation
- Your current employment contract
- A current pension insurance history (see "i Where can I find out more?")
- Your last pay slip

If we need further documents, we will write to you. If we can issue you the residence card, we will send you an appointment.

If you have any questions, please send an email to <mailto:ref20@migrationsamt.bremen.de> with your question and phone number and when we can best reach you.

Legal bases

- [Gesetz über die allgemeine Freizügigkeit von Unionsbürgern \(Freizügigkeitsgesetz/ EU-FreizügG/EU\) vom 30.07.2004](#)
- [Richtlinie 2004/38/EG des Europäischen Parlamentes und des Rates vom 29.04.2004](#)

What deadlines must be paid attention to?

As a third-country family member, you need a residence card if you wish to stay in Germany for more than three months.

What are the costs?

We will inform you about the amount of the fees in our invitation letter