

Residence permit for family reunification

You would like your foreign spouse and / or your children to move to Germany with you?
Or your foreign spouse and / or your children are already in Germany, but do not have a residence permit?

You can find the most important information on this so-called family reunification here:

Competent Department

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

Basic information

Family reunification usually requires that a visa for family reunification has been successfully applied for beforehand at the German mission abroad in the country of origin of the spouse or children (see under "i Where can I find out more?"). This applies to family reunification with foreigners as well as to family reunification with Germans! An entry without a required visa for family reunification usually results in the foreign family member joining the family having to leave the country again in order to apply for a visa in the country of origin.

Positive exceptions apply to nationals from EU and EFTA member states. You can join your family members in Germany without a visa and the issuance of a residence permit (further exceptions exist for the following countries: Australia, Israel, Japan, Canada, New Zealand, USA, Republic of Korea / see under Procedures).

Family reunification of foreigners to foreigners in Germany is only possible if the family member already living here is in possession of a residence permit that allows family reunification. The following §§ do not permit family reunification: 25 IV, 25 IVb, 25V, 25a II, 25 b IV AufenthG Spouses who are to reunite with foreigners in Germany must, as a rule, already have a basic knowledge of the German language. This also applies to the subsequent immigration of a spouse to a German. For family reunification with foreigners, the livelihood of all family members must be secured. If foreign children join a German spouse, the livelihood of these children must be secured. This list is not exhaustive. Information can be obtained from the German missions abroad (see "i Where can I find out more?").

What documents do I need?

- completed application form
- 1 biometric passport photo (not older than 3 months)

According to Bundesdruckerei's photo sample board: <https://www.bundesdruckerei.de>

- Health insurance certificate
- valid passport
- for entry without visa are also to be brought along:
 - Marriage certificate in the original and translation, legalized if necessary (and possibly divorce decree if already married)
 - Language certificate A1 for the newly arrived spouse
 - In case of subsequent immigration of children: original birth certificate of the child and translation, legalized if necessary
 - Rental agreement
 - employment contract and salary statements for the last three months

Procedure

Family reunification usually requires that a visa for family reunification has been successfully applied for at the German mission abroad in the country of origin of the spouse or children prior to entry. This applies to family reunification with foreigners as well as to family reunification with Germans! The German missions abroad are in charge of the procedure, i.e. they decide in the matter, the migration office is only involved. Information about the visa procedure can be found on this page under "i Where can I find out more?" and at the German missions abroad themselves.

Exceptions apply only to nationals of the following countries: Australia, Israel, Japan, Canada, New Zealand, USA and Republic of Korea or in special exceptional cases because children are dependent on the support of both parents or a spouse is in need of care -due to illness-. Nationals of these countries can apply for a residence permit for family reunification in Germany.

If you have come to Germany with a 90-day visa or without a required visa and are dependent on your spouse due to a need for support or care that has arisen here, so that you assume that this emergency situation means that you will not be able to leave again to make up for the visa procedure in your country of origin, you must register with the Migration Office. To do this, please send an e-mail and request an appointment, stating the reasons:

<mailto:office@migrationsamt.bremen.de>

If you have entered the country with the required visa for family reunification, please fill out the form "Vordruck Terminvergabe Einreise" and send it by e-mail to <mailto:ref11@migrationsamt.bremen.de>.

You will then receive a prompt appointment for the issuance of your residence permit.

If you are in possession of a residence permit

- for study/preparation for study (§ 16b AufenthG),
- to apply for a study permit (§ 17 AufenthG),
- for employment as a scientific employee/researcher/visiting scientist (§§ 19c, 18d AufenthG),

or

as an employee of a Bremen university in possession of a

- Blue Card (§ 18b Abs. 2 AufenthG) or
- a settlement permit (§§18c, 9, 9a AufenthG)

your relatives must book an appointment at [bremen_service universität](#) to apply for a residence permit for family reunification via the link below.

<mailto:auslaenderbehoerde-bsu@migrationsamt.bremen.de>

Legal bases

- [Aufenthaltsgesetz \(AufenthG\)](#)

What deadlines must be paid attention to?

The competent German mission abroad in the country of origin of the family member joining him or her will provide information on costs and deadlines / duration of the procedure for issuing a visa.

How long does it take to process

The issuance of the residence permit after entry with the required visa must be applied for at the Migration Office within the validity of the existing national visa or, in the case of possible visa-free entry, within 90 days.

What are the costs?

Fees of up to 110.00 may be charged for the issuance of the residence permit.