

Checklists for Residence Permits Under General Residence Law (AufenthG)

Please refer to the relevant section for the requirements for your residence permit:

Residence permit (AE) for educational purposes:



Page	Legal reference	Brief description
4	§ 16a Abs. 1	On-the-job vocational training/continuing education
5	§ 16a Abs. 2	Vocational training in schools
6	§ 16b Abs. 1	Studying
6	§ 16b Abs. 5	Pre-university language course
7, 8	§ 16d Abs. 1	Implementation of a qualifying measure
9	§ 16f Abs. 1	Language courses/ Student exchange
10	§ 16g Abs. 1	Vocational training for foreign nationals required to leave the country
11	§ 16g Abs. 8	For foreign nationals required to leave the country to seek employment following the completion of a training program in accordance with § 16 g Abs. 1 AufenthG
12	§ 17 Abs. 1	Search for a training position
13	§ 17 Abs. 2	University application

Residence permit (AE) for the purpose of employment:



Page	Legal reference	Brief description
14	§ 18a	Skilled workers with vocational training
15	§ 18b	Skilled workers with an academic training
16	§ 18d	Research
17	§ 18g	EU Blue Card
18, 19	§ 19c	Other employment purposes
20	§ 19d	Employment for qualified persons with tolerated stay
21	§ 20	Job search for skilled workers
22	§ 20a	Opportunity Card
23	§ 21	Self-employed and freelancers

Checklists for Residence Permits Under General Residence Law (AufenthG)

Please refer to the relevant section for the requirements for your residence permit:

Residence permit (AE) for family reasons:



Page	Legal reference	Brief description
24	§ 28 Abs. 1 S. 1 Nr. 1	Family reunification with a German spouse
24	§ 28 Abs. 1 S. 1 Nr. 2	Family reunification with a German parent
24	§ 28 Abs. 1 S. 1 Nr. 3	Family reunification with a German child
25	§ 30 Abs. 1	Spousal reunification with a foreign national
25	§ 31 Abs. 1	Spouses' independent right of residence
25	§ 31 Abs. 2	Spouses' independent right of residence (exceptional hardship)
26	§ 32 Abs. 1	Family reunification for children
26	§ 33	Birth in Germany
26	§ 34 Abs. 2	Adult children
27	§ 36 Abs. 1	Parental reunification with unaccompanied minors (UMA)
27	§ 36 Abs. 2	Family reunification for other family members (exceptional hardship)
27	§ 36 Abs. 3	Parental reunification for skilled workers
27	[§ 36a Abs. 1	Family reunification for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection]

Residence permit (AE) for special reasons:

Page	Legal reference	Brief description
28	§ 37 Abs. 1	Right of return
28	§ 37 Abs. 5	Retiree
28	§ 38 Abs. 1 Nr. 2	Former Germans
28	§ 38a Abs. 1	Long-term residents in another EU Country

Long-term Residence permit (NE):

Page	Legal reference	Brief description
29	§ 9	General long-term residence permit
29	§ 9a	Permanent residence EU
30	§ 18c Abs. 1	Skilled workers in general
31	§ 18c Abs. 2	Skilled workers holding a Blue Card
31	§ 18c Abs. 3	Highly qualified skilled workers / scientists
31	§ 21 Abs. 4	Self-employed persons
32	§ 28 Abs. 2	Family members of Germans
32	§ 35 Abs. 1	Children 16 years of age and older

Wichtige Hinweise für die Antragstellung



1. Submit only copies: Please do not send original documents by mail or drop them in the letterbox. Submit only clearly legible copies. Bring the originals with you to your personal appointment.
2. Ensure documents are up to date: All proofs (payslips, rent certificates, insurance certificates) must not be older than 6 months at the time of application.
3. Translations: Foreign documents (certificates, diplomas) that are not written in the German language must be translated by a translator officially sworn in Germany

DIGITAL SERVICES & DOWNLOADS

➤ **Declaration of employment relationship:**

Scan the QR code for the official form of the Federal Employment Agency to describe the position.



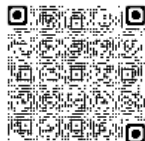
➤ **The official recognition portal:**

Find out whether your foreign degree is recognized and scan the QR code.



➤ **Recognized language certificates (BAMF):**

Find out here which language examinations and certificates (e.g., Goethe-Institut, telc, ÖSD, TestDaF) are officially recognized by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees.



➤ **Important information regarding the current procedure at the Foreigners' Registration Office (ABH) Bottrop can be found here.**



Checklist for residence for educational purposes



General documents/requirements for the residence permit:

- valid national passport/travel document in original form
- current biometric passport photo (not older than 6 months) with QR code
- proof of secured livelihood
 - blocked account at a German bank (with the currently legally required monthly standard amount), or
 - declaration of commitment pursuant to Section 68 of the German Residence Act (AufenthG), or
 - scholarship certificate (stating the funding amount and duration), or
 - training/employment contract and salary statements for the last 3 months
- rental agreement including information on the apartment size (square meters)
- current proof of the amount of rent (current rent certificate or bank statement)
- current membership certificate from the health insurance provider
- no criminal record (will be checked by the authorities)

Special documents/requirements:

- § 16 a Abs. 1 AufenthG (On-the-job vocational training/continuing education)**
- Vocational training contract (signed)
- Declaration regarding the employment relationship (form completed by the training provider from the Federal Employment Agency) [EZB](#)
- Proof of German language skills at level A2, except in the case of qualified vocational training, where language skills at level B1 are required – recognized by the BAM (Exception if assessed otherwise)

[recognized A2 language proficiency certificates](#)

[recognized B1 language proficiency certificates](#)

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Checklist for residence for educational purposes



General documents/requirements for the residence permit:

- valid national passport/travel document in original form
- current biometric passport photo (not older than 6 months) with QR code
- proof of secured livelihood
 - blocked account at a German bank (with the currently legally required monthly standard amount), or
 - declaration of commitment pursuant to Section 68 of the German Residence Act (AufenthG), or
 - scholarship certificate (stating the funding amount and duration), or
 - training/employment contract and salary statements for the last 3 months
- rental agreement including information on the apartment size (square meters)
- current proof of the amount of rent (current rent certificate or bank statement)
- current membership certificate from the health insurance provider
- no criminal record (will be checked by the authorities)

Special documents/requirements:

- § 16 a Abs. 2 AufenthG (Vocational training in schools)
- Admission confirmation/school contract (binding commitment or contract from the state or state-recognized vocational school/technical school)
 - from which the intended professional qualification and the duration of the training must be evident
- Proof of German language skills at level B1 – recognized by the BAMF
 - (exception if assessed in another way)

[recognized B1 language proficiency certificates](#)

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Checklist for residence for the purpose of studying



General documents/requirements for the residence permit:

- valid national passport/travel document in original form
- current biometric passport photo (not older than 6 months) with QR code
- proof of secured livelihood
 - blocked account at a German bank (with the currently legally required monthly standard amount), or
 - declaration of commitment pursuant to Section 68 of the German Residence Act (AufenthG), or
 - scholarship certificate (stating the funding amount and duration), or
 - training/employment contract and salary statements for the last 3 months
- rental agreement including information on the apartment size (square meters)
- current proof of the amount of rent (current rent certificate or bank statement)
- current membership certificate from the health insurance provider
- no criminal record (will be checked by the authorities)

Special documents/requirements:

- § 16 b Abs. 1 AufenthG (Studying)
- Admission letter (enrollment)
- Certificate of enrollment
- if applicable: proof of preparatory study measures
- Language certificate of German language skills at level C1 – recognized by BAMF
[recognized C1 language proficiency certificates](#)
- University entrance qualification (certificates)
- if the standard period of study is exceeded: proof of academic performance, current grade transcript or forecast certificate

- § 16 b Abs. 5 AufenthG
(Pre-university language course)

- Confirmation of participation
- Registration for the Studienkolleg

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Checklist for residence for the purpose of carrying out a qualification measure



General documents/requirements for the residence permit:

- valid national passport/travel document in original form
- current biometric passport photo (not older than 6 months) with QR code
- proof of secured livelihood
 - blocked account at a German bank (with the currently legally required monthly standard amount), or
 - declaration of commitment pursuant to Section 68 of the German Residence Act (AufenthG), or
 - scholarship certificate (stating the funding amount and duration), or
 - training/employment contract and salary statements for the last 3 months
- rental agreement including information on the apartment size (square meters)
- current proof of the amount of rent (current rent certificate or bank statement)
- current membership certificate from the health insurance provider
- no criminal record (will be checked by the authorities)

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Checklist for residence for the purpose of carrying out a qualification measure



Special documents/requirements:

- § 16 d Abs. 1 AufenthG (Implementation of a qualification measure)
- Notice/written notification from the district government
- Registration for the qualification measure
 - school-based: registration/participation confirmation (knowledge examination, preparatory course, training program, language courses, etc.)
 - company-based: further training plan from the employer, employment/training contract, etc.
- Declaration of employment relationship (form from the Federal Employment Agency completed by the training institution) [EZB](#)
- Proof of German language skills at level A2 – recognized by BAMF
[recognized A2 language proficiency certificates](#)
- foreign educational certificates
[Information on the recognition of foreign professional qualifications](#)
- completed form for equivalence assessment from the district government

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Checklist for residence for the purpose of a language course or student exchange



General documents/requirements for the residence permit:

- valid national passport/travel document in original form
- current biometric passport photo (not older than 6 months) with QR code
- proof of secured livelihood
 - blocked account at a German bank (with the currently legally required monthly standard amount), or
 - declaration of commitment pursuant to Section 68 of the German Residence Act (AufenthG), or
 - scholarship certificate (stating the funding amount and duration), or
 - training/employment contract and salary statements for the last 3 months
- rental agreement including information on the apartment size (square meters)
- current proof of the amount of rent (current rent certificate or bank statement)
- current membership certificate from the health insurance provider
- no criminal record (will be checked by the authorities)

Special documents/requirements:

§ 16 f Abs. 1 AufenthG (Language course/Student exchange)

Language course

- Registration confirmation from the language school

Student exchange

- Confirmation from the exchange organization/school

The duration, conditions, and any costs of the student exchange should be stated

- Agreement or contract regarding the student exchange

- Proof of accommodation

- Travel health insurance

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Checklist for residence for the purpose of training for persons required to leave the country



General documents/requirements for the residence permit:

- valid national passport/travel document in original form
- current biometric passport photo (not older than 6 months) with QR code
- proof of secured livelihood
 - blocked account at a German bank (with the currently legally required monthly standard amount), or
 - declaration of commitment pursuant to Section 68 of the German Residence Act (AufenthG), or
 - scholarship certificate (stating the funding amount and duration), or
 - training/employment contract and salary statements for the last 3 months
- rental agreement including information on the apartment size (square meters)
- current proof of the amount of rent (current rent certificate or bank statement)
- current membership certificate from the health insurance provider
- no criminal record (will be checked by the authorities)

Special documents/requirements:

- § 16 g Abs. 1 AufenthG (Vocational training for foreign nationals required to leave the country)**
- Toleration
- Vocational training contract or offer of an apprenticeship position
- for assistant and helper training: letter of intent for subsequent qualified vocational training
- Obligation to notify in case of early termination by employer/employee

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- proof of secured livelihood
 - blocked account at a German bank (with the currently legally required monthly standard amount), or
 - declaration of commitment pursuant to Section 68 of the German Residence Act (AufenthG), or
 - scholarship certificate (stating the funding amount and duration), or
 - training/employment contract and salary statements for the last 3 months
- rental agreement including information on the apartment size (square meters)
- current proof of the amount of rent (current rent certificate or bank statement)
- current membership certificate from the health insurance provider
- no criminal record (will be checked by the authorities)

Special documents/requirements:

- § 16 g Abs. 8 AufenthG (For foreign nationals required to leave the country to seek employment following the completion of a training program in accordance with § 16 g Abs. 1 AufenthG)**
 - Final certificate of vocational training
 - Employment contract
 - Declaration of the employment relationship (form of the Federal Employment Agency filled out by the training provider) [EZB](#)

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Checklist for residence for the purpose of searching for an apprenticeship and university studies



General documents/requirements for the residence permit:

- valid national passport/travel document in original form
- current biometric passport photo (not older than 6 months) with QR code
- proof of secured livelihood
 - blocked account at a German bank (with the currently legally required monthly standard amount), or
 - declaration of commitment pursuant to Section 68 of the German Residence Act (AufenthG), or
 - scholarship certificate (stating the funding amount and duration), or
 - training/employment contract and salary statements for the last 3 months
- rental agreement including information on the apartment size (square meters)
- current proof of the amount of rent (current rent certificate or bank statement)
- current membership certificate from the health insurance provider
- no criminal record (will be checked by the authorities)

Special documents/requirements:

- § 17 Abs. 1 AufenthG (Search for a training position)
- Age limit must be observed (at the time of submitting a complete application, the 35th year of life must not have been completed)
- Proof of a school-leaving qualification with university entrance qualification or from a German school abroad
- Proof of German language skills at level B1 recognized by the BAMF
[recognized B1 language proficiency certificates](#)
- Proof of contact with training companies, invitations to job interviews / for plausibility check an indication of which training occupation an apprenticeship position is being sought for

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 - declaration of commitment pursuant to Section 68 of the German Residence Act (AufenthG), or
 - scholarship certificate (stating the funding amount and duration), or
 - training/employment contract and salary statements for the last 3 months
- rental agreement including information on the apartment size (square meters)
- current proof of the amount of rent (current rent certificate or bank statement)
- current membership certificate from the health insurance provider
- no criminal record (will be checked by the authorities)

Special documents/requirements:

- § 17 Abs. 2 AufenthG (University application)**
- Proof of a school-leaving certificate with university entrance qualification/eligibility to attend a Studienkolleg
- Application documents
- Proof of German language skills at level B1 recognized by the BAMF

[recognized B1 language proficiency certificates](#)

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General Documents/Prerequisites for the Residence Permit:

- Valid national passport / travel document (original)
- Current biometric passport photo (not older than 6 months) with QR code
- Proof of secured livelihood (wage statements of the last 3 months, employment contract, notice of benefits from the Jobcenter / Social Welfare Office, housing benefit notice, child supplement notice).
- Tenancy agreement including details of the apartment size (square meters)
- Current proof of rent amount (current rent certificate or bank statement)
- Current certificate of membership in a statutory health insurance fund
- Freedom from criminal convictions (will be verified by the authority)

Specific Documents/Prerequisites:

Skilled Workers with Vocational Training (§ 18a AufenthG)

- Declaration of employment relationship. The official form of the Federal Employment Agency can be found directly at: https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/datei/erklaerung-zum-beschaeftigungsverhaeltnis_ba047549.pdf.
- If applicable, professional practice permit / recognition notice of the qualification. Under the following link, you can find out if your foreign degree is recognized:
<https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/de/index.php>

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Skilled Workers with Academic Training (§ 18b AufenthG)

- Recognition notice / proof of equivalence of the degree (anabin extract, ZAB); via the recognition portal <https://www.erkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/de/index.php#>.
- Declaration of employment relationship. The official form of the Federal Employment Agency can be found directly at: https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/datei/erklaerung-zum-beschaefigungsverhaeltnis_ba047549.pdf.
- If applicable, professional practice permit or employment permit.

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Research (§ 18d AufenthG):

General Documents/Prerequisites for the Residence Permit:

- Valid national passport / travel document (original)
- Current biometric passport photo (not older than 6 months) with QR code
- Proof of secured livelihood (wage statements of the last 3 months, employment contract, notice of benefits from the Jobcenter / Social Welfare Office, housing benefit notice, child supplement notice).
- Tenancy agreement including details of the apartment size (square meters)
- Current proof of rent amount (current rent certificate or bank statement)
- Current certificate of membership in a statutory health insurance fund
- Freedom from criminal convictions (will be verified by the authority)

Specific Documents/Prerequisites:

- Declaration of assumption of costs by the research institution (if not recognized and not publicly funded).
- Proof of qualification: University degree certificate, doctoral certificate, or proof of scientific activity.
- Proof of secured livelihood: Scholarship notice, employment contract, grant of third-party funding, or other income.

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EU Blue Card (§ 18g AufenthG)

General Documents/Prerequisites for the Residence Permit:

- Valid national passport / travel document (original)
- Current biometric passport photo (not older than 6 months) with QR code
- Proof of secured livelihood (wage statements of the last 3 months, employment contract, notice of benefits from the Jobcenter / Social Welfare Office, housing benefit notice, child supplement notice).
- Tenancy agreement including details of the apartment size (square meters)
- Current proof of rent amount (current rent certificate or bank statement)
- Current certificate of membership in a statutory health insurance fund
- Freedom from criminal convictions (will be verified by the authority)

Specific Documents/Prerequisites:

- Declaration of employment relationship. The official form of the Federal Employment Agency can be found directly at: https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/datei/erklaerung-zum-beschaefigungsverhaeltnis_ba047549.pdf. This must be completed by the employer.
- University degree / tertiary degree: Certificate with transcript of records in the original and copy.
- Recognition notice / proof of equivalence of the degree (anabin extract, ZAB); via the recognition portal <https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/de/index.php#>.
- Compliance with salary thresholds (inquiry with the immigration authority required).
- Professional practice permit (e.g., for medical or legal professions).

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Other Employment Purposes (§ 19c AufenthG):

General Documents/Prerequisites for the Residence Permit:

- Valid national passport / travel document (original)
- Current biometric passport photo (not older than 6 months) with QR code
- Proof of secured livelihood (wage statements of the last 3 months, employment contract, notice of benefits from the Jobcenter / Social Welfare Office, housing benefit notice, child supplement notice).
- Tenancy agreement including details of the apartment size (square meters)
- Current proof of rent amount (current rent certificate or bank statement)
- Current certificate of membership in a statutory health insurance fund
- Freedom from criminal convictions (will be verified by the authority)

Specific Documents/Prerequisites:

§ 19c Para. 1 – For special regulations / quotas (e.g., Western Balkans regulation):

- Prior approval of the Federal Employment Agency (accelerated skilled worker procedure).
- Declaration of employment relationship. The official form of the Federal Employment Agency is to be completed by the employer and can be found here:

https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/datei/erklaerung-zum-beschaefigungsverhaeltnis_ba047549.pdf.

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§ 19c Para. 2 – For distinct professional experience without a formal vocational or university degree:

- Proof of a vocational or university degree recognized by the state abroad (minimum 2-year training duration).
- Proof of at least 2 years of relevant professional experience in the last 5 years (e.g., employment references).
- Declaration of employment relationship. The official form of the Federal Employment Agency is to be completed by the employer and can be found here:

https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/datei/erklaerung-zum-beschaefigungsverhaeltnis_ba047549.pdf.

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Employment for Qualified Persons with Tolerated Stay (§ 19d AufenthG):

General Documents/Prerequisites for the Residence Permit:

- Valid national passport / travel document (original)
- Current biometric passport photo (not older than 6 months) with QR code
- Proof of secured livelihood (wage statements of the last 3 months, employment contract, notice of benefits from the Jobcenter / Social Welfare Office, housing benefit notice, child supplement notice).
- Tenancy agreement including details of the apartment size (square meters)
- Current proof of rent amount (current rent certificate or bank statement)
- Current certificate of membership in a statutory health insurance fund
- Freedom from criminal convictions (will be verified by the authority)

Specific Documents/Prerequisites:

- Proof of vocational or university degree.
- Declaration of employment relationship. The official form of the Federal Employment Agency is to be completed by the employer and can be found here:

https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/datei/erklaerung-zum-beschaefigungsverhaeltnis_ba047549.pdf.

- Proof of language proficiency: Certificate German (level B1 or higher), integration course certificate, or German school/vocational degree. Information on officially recognized language tests (e.g., Goethe-Institut, telc, ÖSD, TestDaF) can be found here:

https://www.bamf.de/DE/Themen/Integration/AkteureEhrenamtlicheInteressierte/SprachnachweiseZertifikate/sprachnachweise_zertifikate-node.html.

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Job Search for Skilled Workers (§ 20 AufenthG):

General Documents/Prerequisites for the Residence Permit:

- Valid national passport / travel document (original)
- Current biometric passport photo (not older than 6 months) with QR code
- Proof of secured livelihood (wage statements of the last 3 months, employment contract, notice of benefits from the Jobcenter / Social Welfare Office, housing benefit notice, child supplement notice).
- Tenancy agreement including details of the apartment size (square meters)
- Current proof of rent amount (current rent certificate or bank statement)
- Current certificate of membership in a statutory health insurance fund
- Freedom from criminal convictions (will be verified by the authority)

Specific Documents/Prerequisites:

- Proof of qualification: Vocational training certificate, university degree, research degree, or recognition notice. Information on the recognition of foreign degrees can be found here:
<https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/de/index.php>.
- Proof of language proficiency: Certificate German (level B1 or higher), integration course certificate, or German school/vocational degree. Information on officially recognized language tests can be found here:
https://www.bamf.de/DE/Themen/Integration/AkteureEhrenamtlicheInteressierte/SprachnachweiseZertifikate/sprachnachweise_zertifikate-node.html.
- Secured livelihood: Blocked account or declaration of commitment.

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Opportunity Card (Chancenkarte) (§ 20a AufenthG):

General Documents/Prerequisites for the Residence Permit:

- Valid national passport / travel document (original)
- Current biometric passport photo (not older than 6 months) with QR code
- Proof of secured livelihood (wage statements of the last 3 months, employment contract, notice of benefits from the Jobcenter / Social Welfare Office, housing benefit notice, child supplement notice).
- Tenancy agreement including details of the apartment size (square meters)
- Current proof of rent amount (current rent certificate or bank statement)
- Current certificate of membership in a statutory health insurance fund
- Freedom from criminal convictions (will be verified by the authority)

Specific Documents/Prerequisites:

- Proof of language proficiency: Certificate German (A1 or higher) OR certificate English (B2 or higher). Information on officially recognized language tests can be found here:

https://www.bamf.de/DE/Themen/Integration/AkteureEhrenamtlicheInteressierte/SprachnachweiseZertifikate/sprachnachweise_zertifikate-node.html.

- Proof of qualification: Vocational training certificate, university degree, research degree, or recognition notice. Information on the recognition of foreign degrees can be found here:

<https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/de/index.php>.

- Secured livelihood: Blocked account or declaration of commitment.

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Self-Employed and Freelancers (§ 21 AufenthG):

General Documents/Prerequisites for the Residence Permit:

- Valid national passport / travel document (original)
- Current biometric passport photo (not older than 6 months) with QR code
- Proof of secured livelihood (wage statements of the last 3 months, employment contract, notice of benefits from the Jobcenter / Social Welfare Office, housing benefit notice, child supplement notice).
- Tenancy agreement including details of the apartment size (square meters)
- Current proof of rent amount (current rent certificate or bank statement)
- Current certificate of membership in a statutory health insurance fund
- Freedom from criminal convictions (will be verified by the authority)

Specific Documents/Prerequisites:

- Business plan & proof of financing (or for freelancers proof of viability).
- From age 45: Proof of appropriate old-age provision.
- If working on a fee basis: Fee contract for cooperation with details on type, scope, and description of the activity.
- Professional permit: If a permit is required for the freelance activity, e.g., admission to the bar (in the original).

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Checklist for residence for family reasons



General documents/requirements for a residence permit:

- Valid national passport/original travel document
- A recent biometric passport photo (taken within the last 6 months) with a QR code
- Proof of sufficient financial means (pay stubs for the last 3 months, employment contract)
- Notice of benefits from the Job Center/Social Services Office (“Sozialamt”), housing allowance notice (“Wohngeld”), and child supplement notice
- Lease agreement, including details of the apartment's size (square meters)
- Current proof of rent amount (current rent statement or bank statement)
- Current proof of health insurance coverage
- Immunity from prosecution (to be reviewed by the authorities)

Special documents/requirements:

- § 28 Abs. 1 S. 1 Nr. 1 - Family reunification with a German spouse**
- Marriage certificates and, if applicable, acknowledgment of paternity documents
- A1 language certificate

- § 28 Abs. 1 S. 1 Nr. 2 - Family reunification with a German parent**
- Birth certificate

- § 28 Abs. 1 S. 1 Nr. 3 - Family reunification with a German child**
- Birth certificate of the German child

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- Lease agreement, including details of the apartment's size (square meters)
- Current proof of rent amount (current rent statement or bank statement)
- Current proof of health insurance coverage
- Immunity from prosecution (to be reviewed by the authorities)

Special documents/requirements:

- § 30 Abs. 1 - Spousal reunification with a foreign national**
- Marriage certificates and, if applicable, acknowledgment of paternity documents
- A1 language certificate

- § 31 Abs. 1 - Spouses' independent right of residence**
- Marriage certificates
- Proof of the dissolution of the marital relationship (e.g., divorce decree)

- § 31 Abs. 2 - Spouses' independent right of residence (exceptional hardship)**
- Marriage certificates
- Proof of the dissolution of the marital relationship (e.g., divorce decree)
- Evidence of exceptional hardship (e.g., medical certificates, police reports)

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- Proof of sufficient financial means (pay stubs for the last 3 months, employment contract)
- Notice of benefits from the Job Center/Social Services Office (“Sozialamt”), housing allowance notice (“Wohngeld”), and child supplement notice
- Lease agreement, including details of the apartment's size (square meters)
- Current proof of rent amount (current rent statement or bank statement)
- Current proof of health insurance coverage
- Immunity from prosecution (to be reviewed by the authorities)

Special documents/requirements:

- § 32 Abs. 1 - AufenthG - Family reunification for children**
- Birth certificate of the child

- § 33 - Birth in Germany**
- Birth certificate of the child
- At least one parent must hold a residence permit at the time of the child's birth

- § 34 Abs. 2- Adult children**
- Trainee employment contract and proof of salary payments for the last three months, **or**
- Certificate of Enrollment, **or**
- School certificate

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Checklist for residence for family reasons



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- A recent biometric passport photo (taken within the last 6 months) with a QR code
- Proof of sufficient financial means (pay stubs for the last 3 months, employment contract)
- Notice of benefits from the Job Center/Social Services Office (“Sozialamt”), housing allowance notice (“Wohngeld”), and child supplement notice
- Lease agreement, including details of the apartment's size (square meters)
- Current proof of rent amount (current rent statement or bank statement)
- Current proof of health insurance coverage
- Immunity from prosecution (to be reviewed by the authorities)

Special documents/requirements:

- § 36 Abs. 1 - Parental reunification with unaccompanied minors (UMA)**
- Birth certificate of the child
- § 36 Abs. 2 - Family reunification for other family members (exceptional hardship)**
- Proof of family relationship
- Evidence of exceptional hardship (e.g., medical certificates, police reports)
- § 36 Abs. 3 - Parental reunification for skilled workers**
- Proof of the family relationship (e.g., the professional’s birth certificate)

§ 36a Abs. 1 - Family reunification for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection (currently suspended)

Marriage certificates and, if applicable, acknowledgment of paternity documents

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Checklist for residence for special reasons



General documents/requirements for a residence permit:

- Valid national passport/original travel document
- A recent biometric passport photo (taken within the last 6 months) with a QR code
- Proof of sufficient financial means (pay stubs for the last 3 months, employment contract)
- Notice of benefits from the Job Center/Social Services Office (“Sozialamt”), housing allowance notice (“Wohngeld”), and child supplement notice
- Lease agreement, including details of the apartment's size (square meters)
- Current proof of rent amount (current rent statement or bank statement)
- Current proof of health insurance coverage
- Immunity from prosecution (to be reviewed by the authorities)

Special documents/requirements:

- § 37 Abs. 1 - Right of return**
 - Employment Contract or Letter of Commitment
 - 8 years of lawful residence in Germany and 6 years of schooling in Germany (school report cards)
 - Applications submitted between the ages of 15 and 21
 - It has been less than 5 years since they left the country permanently
- § 37 Abs. 5 - Retiree**
 - Proof of pension (pension statement)
 - 8 years of lawful residence in Germany
- § 38 Abs. 1 Nr. 2 - Former Germans**
 - Proof of former German citizenship and proof of loss
 - Proof of habitual residence in Germany
 - B1 language certificate ([overview of recognized certificates](#))
 - Proof that German citizenship was lost less than 6 months ago
- § 38a Abs. 1– long-term residents in another EU Country**
 - Valid EU long-term residence permit issued by an EU Member State
 - Application must be submitted within 90 days of entering Germany
 - Proof of periods of residence in the Member State

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Checklist for long-term residence (NE)



General documents/requirements for a residence permit:

- Valid national passport/original travel document
- A recent biometric passport photo (taken within the last 6 months) with a QR code
- Proof of sufficient financial means (pay stubs for the last 3 months, employment contract)
- Notice of benefits from the Job Center/Social Services Office (“Sozialamt”), housing allowance notice (“Wohngeld”), and child supplement notice
- Lease agreement, including details of the apartment's size (square meters)
- Current proof of rent amount (current rent statement or bank statement)
- Current proof of health insurance coverage
- Immunity from prosecution (to be reviewed by the authorities)

Special documents/requirements:

- § 9 - General long-term residence permit**
- Hold a residence permit for at least 5 years
- B1 language certificate ([overview of recognized certificates](#))
- At least 5 years of pension contributions (pension insurance history)
- Proof of basic knowledge of the legal and social system (e.g., „Leben in Deutschland“)

- § 9a - Permanent residence EU**
- Hold a residence permit for at least 5 years
- B1 language certificate ([overview of recognized certificates](#))
- Proof of basic knowledge of the legal and social system (e.g., „Leben in Deutschland“)

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Checklist for the Settlement Permit



General Documents/Prerequisites for the Residence Permit:

- Valid national passport / travel document (original)
- Current biometric passport photo (not older than 6 months) with QR code
- Proof of secured livelihood (wage statements of the last 3 months, employment contract, notice of benefits from the Jobcenter / Social Welfare Office, housing benefit notice, child supplement notice).
- Tenancy agreement including details of the apartment size (square meters)
- Current proof of rent amount (current rent certificate or bank statement)
- Current certificate of membership in a health insurance fund
- Freedom from criminal convictions (will be verified by the authority)

Skilled workers in general (§ 18c Para. 1 AufenthG):

- Proof of residence & pension period:
 - General rule: 3 years residence permit & 36 months pension contributions
 - With a German degree: 2 years residence & 24 months pension contributions
- Language certificate (level B1). Information on officially recognized language tests can be found here:

https://www.bamf.de/DE/Themen/Integration/AkteureEhrenamtlicheInteressierte/SprachnachweiseZertifikate/sprachnachweise_zertifikate-node.html.

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Checklist for the Settlement Permit



Skilled workers with EU Blue Card (§ 18c Para. 2 AufenthG):

- Proof of employment & pension period:
 - General rule: 27 months employment according to § 18g & pension contributions & language skills A1
 - Reduction to 21 months with language skills B1

Highly qualified skilled workers / scientists (§ 18c Para. 3 AufenthG):

- Proof of qualification: Multi-year professional experience as a scientist/teacher in a prominent position
- Integration certificates (language certificates, family ties, honorary office)

Self-employed persons according to § 21 (4) AufenthG

- Special provision for foreign graduates of German universities or universities of applied sciences: Proof of successful completion (diploma/certificate), provided that the intended self-employed activity has a professional connection to the studies completed.

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Checklist for long-term residence (NE) for family reasons



General documents/requirements for a residence permit:

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- A recent biometric passport photo (taken within the last 6 months) with a QR code
- Proof of sufficient financial means (pay stubs for the last 3 months, employment contract)
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- Lease agreement, including details of the apartment's size (square meters)
- Current proof of rent amount (current rent statement or bank statement)
- Current proof of health insurance coverage
- Immunity from prosecution (to be reviewed by the authorities)

Special documents/requirements:

- § 28 Abs. 2 - Family members of Germans**
- B1 language certificate ([overview of recognized certificates](#))
- The marital relationship must have existed for at least 3 years within Germany

- § 35 Abs. 1 - Children 16 years of age and older**
- Hold a residence permit for at least 5 years
- School certificate *or*
- trainee contract *or*
- enrollment certificate
- For applicants 18 years of age or older:** B1 language certificate ([overview of recognized certificates](#)), *or* secondary school diploma (at least “Hauptschulabschluss”)

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