

Visa for marriage with the purpose of subsequent permanent residence

This information also applies to applying for a visa to reunite with a same-sex registered civil partner.

It is strongly recommended to provide a complete set of documents in accordance with the list of requirements below in order to avoid delays in visa processing.

The decision to issue a visa is the responsibility of the (competent) German diplomatic or consular mission in Russia. Please note: The Diplomatic mission has the right to request additional or missing documents, which may increase the time for consideration of your application.

Applicants must have with them the originals of all necessary documents and their copies.

- **[Printed completed visa application \(original\)](#)**
One application for the issuance of a national visa filled out in German and signed with his own hand, including explanations in accordance with sections 53, 54 of the Law on Stay in the Territory of the Federal Republic of Germany.
- **Contact form for the Consulate.**
(see the Forms section)
- **2 up-to-date biometric passport-format photos taken no earlier than 6 months ago at the time of application submission, on a white background, 45x35 mm in size.**
Please attach one photo to application (despite the indication on the application "do not attach") and bring a second photo with you.
- **Passport with 1 copy of the page with personal data.**
The passport must be signed and contain at least 3 free pages. Must be valid for at least 12 months from the start date of the trip.
- **An internal passport with 1 copy of the page with personal data and 1 copy of all pages with marks.**
For citizens who do not hold Russian citizenship – a residence permit in Russia with 1 copy.
- **A certificate from the German Civil Registry Office** confirming the registration for the wedding ceremony ("Anmeldung zur Eheschließung") or a certificate from Civil Registry Office of the presence of all prerequisites for marriage with 1 copy.
- **In the case of previous marriages of the applicant and/or the groom/bride with whom the marriage is planned:**
All certificates issued by the Civil Registry office of previous marriages, divorce certificate/court decision on divorce with a mark on the court decision comes into force, a death certificate, certificates of name change with an apostille in the original and with a certified translation in German language with 1 copy.
- **A written and hand-signed statement** of the groom/bride residing in Germany in German or English that the couple's life together will take place in Germany, and that he/she will bear all expenses before marriage in accordance with § 66-68 of the Law on Residence in the Territory of the Federal Republic of Germany with 1 copy.

Your bride/groom should promptly inform the relevant Department for Foreigners at the place of residence about whether it is necessary to obtain an official (!) statement of commitment (behördliche Verpflichtungserklärung) for processing a visa application.
- **1 copy of the passport or identity card of the groom/bride residing in Germany, as well as 1 copy of the certificate of registration at the place of residence (Meldebescheinigung)**, which must be issued no earlier than 6 months before the date of submission of documents. For citizens of other countries - an additional 1 copy of a residence permit in Germany.
- **Confirmation of initial knowledge of the German language at A1 level** in the original with 1 copy. You can prove German language skills in the visa procedure with a recognized language certificate (not a certificate of participation!). Recognized language certificates are issued, for example, by the Goethe-Institut e.V., the Austrian Cultural Forum, the providers of telc-GmbH, an ECL examination center or a TestDaF institute.
If you are applying to join a foreign skilled worker, you will find the corresponding exceptions in the separate information sheet [«Proof of knowledge of the German language upon reunification with a spouse»](#). The leaflet also contains additional explanations and exceptions to the obligation to provide proof of language proficiency.

- **A biography** presented in the form of a table, without gaps between time intervals, indicating the full address and contact information with 1 copy. If you write a biography not in German, you must attach a certified translation into German.
- **Medical insurance policy issued in the EU, with 1 copy.** In case of family reunification, the State medical insurance begins to take effect from the moment the applicant is included in the family insurance. As a rule, it can be issued only after marriage and registration at the place of residence. Before the applicant is included in the state medical insurance, it is necessary to purchase a private medical insurance policy. We recommend to conclude medical insurance for foreign citizens entering the country (the so-called "Incoming-Versicherung"). Health insurance policies for travelers may exclude insurance coverage in the event of a planned long stay in the country. A medical insurance policy can be provided upon receipt of a visa. **Only medical insurance issued in EU countries is accepted for consideration.**
- If necessary, other documents with the notarized German translation with 1 copy.

Important information:

- Processing of documents for the purpose of obtaining a visa should be the final stage of preparation for departure. You should submit documents only if you comply with the relevant civil and legal conditions for marriage in Germany. Please contact the appropriate department of the Registry Office in a timely manner and before applying for a visa and find out what documents you need to provide to apply for marriage.
- Please note: the application for marriage becomes invalid **six months after the date of its issuance.**
- A visa for marriage can be issued only if the bride and groom are 18 years old.
- You can find out more detailed information about the "Confirmation of the initial knowledge of German by a foreign spouse during family reunification" from the corresponding [brochure](#) Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge).
- Additional documents not specified in this memo may be requested when applying for a national visa or during the processing of documents.
- All documents written in a language other than German must be provided with a translation into German. Translations made by a translator in the Russian Federation must be notarized. For translations made by a sworn translator in Germany, notarization is not required.
- Translation of internal and foreign passports, as well as medical insurance into German is **not** required.
- Documents issued by the Civil Registry Office or the court must have an apostille. This rule does not apply to German documents and, as a rule, documents from other EU countries. Please note that the apostille must be on the original document (and not on copy). If there is an apostille, it must also be translated.
- All original documents and their translations must be provided with 1 copy. Notarization of copies of documents is **not** required.
- Pay attention to the completeness of the submitted documents! An incomplete set of documents may cause a refusal to issue a national visa.

Checklist

This checklist is used exclusively for self-control and preparation of documents for submission.

Please distribute all the documents attached to the application in the following order.

The set must contain all originals (civil status documents, diplomas, passports, etc.) and copies of all documents in the following order. These originals will be returned to you immediately after their verification during the submission of documents..

- 1 photo;
- application form with an attached photo;
- medical insurance policy issued in the EU;
- certificate of application for marriage;
- invitation of the bride/groom;
- a copy of the groom's/bride's passport and a certificate of registration, if available, a residence permit;
- if necessary, certificates and documents about previous marriages;
- if necessary, a language certificate;
- biography with a detailed description of professional activities;
- if necessary, other confirmations;
- internal passport + a copy of the page with personal data + copies of all pages with marks;
- a foreign passport + a copy of the page with personal data +, if necessary, a copy of a temporary residence permit or a residence permit in the Russian Federation.

This memo is updated if necessary and does not claim to be complete.