

## Visa for reunification with a spouse who has citizenship or a residence permit in Germany

*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 own Russian citizenship – a residence permit in Russian Federation with 1 copy.
- **Marriage certificate with apostille and certified translation into German with 1 copy.**
- **In the case of previous marriages of the applicant and/or the spouse with whom the reunification is planned:** All certificates issued by the Civil Registry Office department on previous marriages, divorce certificates /court decisions on divorce with a note on the entry into force of the court decision, death certificates, certificates of name change with an apostille in the original and with a certified translation into German with 1 copy.
- **1 copy of the passport or identity card of the spouse living 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.
- **In case of moving together to Germany:** a lease agreement, a document of ownership or a similar document indicating the future address of residence with 1 copy.
- **A free-form invitation from a spouse** with whom reunification is planned to live together in Germany with a free-form statement of readiness to take on the maintenance costs of the spouse moving to Germany, written in German or English, with 1 copy.
- **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, this is possible after entering Germany and registering at the place of residence. In case of reunification with a foreign citizen working in Germany, the state medical insurance begins to operate from the beginning of the employment relationship. Before the applicant is included in the family state health insurance, it is necessary to purchase a private health 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. **In case of reunification with a spouse residing in Germany**, a medical insurance policy may be provided upon receipt of a visa. **Only medical insurance issued in EU countries is accepted for consideration.**
- If necessary, other documents with a certified translation into German with 1 copy.

#### **Important information:**

- A visa for reunification with a spouse can be issued only if both spouses 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).
- When reuniting with a spouse working in Germany as a researcher, visiting scientist and researcher: reunification with a spouse is possible only if the duration of his stay is **more than a year**, and there is evidence of sufficient living space and additional financial resources.
- 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 copies). 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;
- spouse's invitation;
- a copy of the spouse's passport and a certificate of registration, if available, a residence permit;
- marriage certificate;
- if necessary, certificates and documents about previous marriages;
- when moving together: lease agreement, ownership document;
- 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.***