

Visa for carrying out activities for mainly religious reasons

This memo has been compiled for applicants who plan to carry out activities in Germany primarily for religious reasons or to enter with primarily religious purposes in accordance with §14 Abs. 1a BeschV i.V.m. §19c Abs. 1 AufenthG.

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 form \(original\)](#)**

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 "do not attach" indication on the application) 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 9 months from the start date of the trip.

- **A general passport with 1 copy of the page with personal data and 1 copy of all pages with the information entered.**

For citizens who do not own Russian citizenship – a temporary residence permit / residence permit in Russia with 1 copy.

- **A medical insurance policy issued in the EU, with 1 copy.** A medical insurance policy can be provided upon receipt of a visa. State health insurance begins to operate after registration at the place of residence in Germany and the beginning of employment according to an employment contract. Upon entry, before the beginning of the employment relationship and before the possibility of obtaining state medical insurance, it is necessary to purchase private medical insurance. 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.

Only medical insurance issued in the EU countries are accepted for consideration.

- **Guaranteed offer of a workplace or an employment contract with 1 copy.** This also includes the invitation of the diocese to carry out the planned activities.

- **In the case of a secondment by the diocese or similar institutions, it is necessary to additionally submit an appropriate translation document in the original with a certified translation into German with 1 copy.**

- **Confirmation of initial knowledge of the German language at A2 level in the form of a language certificate in the original with 1 copy.** The language certificate must be issued by certified service providers. Certified language certificates are issued by organizations such as Goethe-Institut e.V., das Österreichische Kulturforum, telc-GmbH operators, ECL examination centers or TestDaF-Institut.

- **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.

Important information:

- In the case of a planned relocation of a spouse/minor children, the following should be taken into account: You can submit documents together with the main applicant who plans to work. To collect documents, please use the memos "Visa for reuniting with a spouse" and "Visa for reuniting a minor child with a family". It is not required to provide a certificate of registration at the place of residence or a copy of the residence permit of a person planning to carry out work.
- Additional documents not specified in this memo may be requested when applying for a national visa or during the processing of documents on an individual basis.
- In some cases, an exception may be made regarding the provision of a language certificate. These exceptional cases must be confirmed by appropriate documents (for example, medical certificates). The agencies involved in the visa process reserve the decision on the existence of an exception. Please note that upon presentation of circumstances regarding the exclusion from the provision of a language certificate, the Office for Foreigners at the place of future stay in Germany takes part in the visa process. In this regard, it can significantly increase the processing time of the application. Possible arguments in favor of an exception with respect to a language certificate (exhaustive list):
 - it seems impossible to make every effort to acquire initial knowledge of the German language before departure **or**
 - the requirement to provide a language certificate will be a so-called case of special gravity in specific circumstances.
- All documents drawn up 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 general and foreign passports, as well as medical insurance into German is **not** required.
- Documents issued by the 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 the 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 at the time of submission of documents.

- 1 photo;
- a statement with a photo pasted on;
- health insurance issued in the EU;
- employment contract/guaranteed workplace offer;
- language certificate;
- biography with a detailed description of professional activity;
- civil passport + a copy of the page with personal data + copies of the pages with the information entered;
- 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.