

Applying for a Residence Permit for Self-Employment After Entering Germany

You must apply for your residence permit at the immigration office at your future place of residence within 90 days. The immigration office often requests documents which you have already submitted to the German embassy or a consulate. **Please note:** Enquire at the immigration office whether you can hand in the same documents, especially when nothing has changed with you and your business idea. The following documents must be submitted regardless:

Form **“Application for a residence permit”**. Below are important **notes** for your application:

- For **“Purpose of stay in the Federal Republic of Germany** (GER: Zweck des Aufenthaltes in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland)”, provide the information that is stated on your visa.
- For **“Intended employment** (GER: Beabsichtigte Erwerbstätigkeit)” → provide **“Self-employed as [please provide the profession in which you wish to wish to work independently] and I apply for § 21 para. 1** (if you want to become self-employed in a trade) or **§ 21 para. 5** (if you want to become a freelancer) (GER: Selbstständig als und ich beantrage § 21 Abs. 1 oder § 21 Abs. 5.)”.
- To make it easier for you to understand, we have visualised the respective text parts in the form for you.

A valid passport from your country of origin.

A current biometric photograph.

Your complete CV in German. You can download a [template](#) from the page of the European Union.

Proof of qualifications: School and university degrees, references, certificates of additional qualifications and proof of foreign language skills with a German translation. **Please note:** Proof is especially important if your self-employment requires you to have certain qualifications. Our **Glossary of Professions** lists which professions require qualifications.

Proof of your professional licence.

Your business plan in German. **Please note:** If your plan for your start-up project has not changed, you can submit the same business plan you already submitted at the embassy or the consulate.

Your financial plan in German. **Please note:** In your financial plan, you must demonstrate that you can provide for yourself (and your family). If you only need to provide for yourself, you should have profits of at least 18,000 euros per year.

Only applicable for freelancers: If you already have clients, submit the orders with agreed-upon fees.

Proof of medical insurance for yourself and your family if you have immigrated with your family. You can have “statutory medical insurance” and “private health insurance” in Germany. If you have immigrated with a visa, you can only take private medical insurance. Find out early on which medical aid you want to take and be sure to get advice about it. You can also find information about medical insurance on the page [medical insurance](#).

Proof of a rental contract or owning your own flat or your own house. You must also have proof of the monthly rental costs or payments on your flat/ house, e.g. by means of a current bank statement.

Only applicable to persons over 45 years: You must prove that you have assets of at least EUR 195,000 to have sufficient provision for your retirement after you have ceased working. You can provide proof for this by means of:

- a private pension plan or life insurance
- your own assets
- entitlement to a retirement pension/annuity or
- business assets.

You do not have to provide proof of this, when you come from the following countries: Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Turkey or the USA.

Proof that you reside in the city/region where you are applying for your residence permit. You can provide proof of this by means of:

- proof of the registration of the flat (certificate of registration) or
- a rental contract and confirmation of having moved in from the property owner.

We have compiled this list carefully and conscientiously. Due to possible changes or requirements, however, we do not guarantee the completeness and correctness of the information. Please check with your immigration office whether any additional documents are required.

Application for a residence permit

**Zweck des Aufenthalts in der
Bundesrepublik Deutschland**

Purpose of stay in the Federal Republic of Germany /
Objet du séjour en République fédérale d'Allemagne /
Scopo del soggiorno nella Repubblica Federale di Germania

[provide the information that is stated on your visa]

**(z.B. Besuch, Touristenreise, Studium, Arbeits-
aufnahme usw.)**

(e. g., visit, holiday, study, employment, etc.) /
(p. ex. visite, voyage de tourisme, études, travail, etc.) /
(ad es. visita, viaggio turistico, studio, lavoro ecc.)

Arbeitgeber

Employer /employeur / datore di lavoro

**Name der Verwandten, der Studienanstalt,
Referenzen usw.**

Names of relatives, educational establishment, references, etc.
Nom des parents, de l'établissement d'enseignement, références, etc.
Nome dei parenti, dell'istituto scolastico, referenze ecc.

Deren Anschrift

Their addresses / leur adresse / indirizzo relativo

Beabsichtigte Erwerbstätigkeit

(Angabe des ausübenden Berufs)

Intended employment (occupation to be exercised)
Activité envisagée (Désignation de la profession exercée)
Impiego previsto (indicare il mestiere da svolgere)

Self-employed as [profession in which you wish to wish to work independently]
and I apply for [§ 21 para. 1 or § 21 para. 5]

Erlerner Beruf

Trade or profession for which trained / Profession apprise /
Mestiere imparato