

Applying for a Visa for Self-Employment in Germany at the German Embassy or a Consulate in the Country of Origin

As a non-EU citizen, you must **personally** submit the following documents for your visa at the German embassy or a German consulate in your home country. You must have all your documents with you for the personal meeting so that you do not have to make further appointments. **Important:** You must present the original documents and bring two copies of each with you. Additionally, the documents must be submitted with an officially certified translation in German.

A passport signed in person with two copies of each page with a photograph. **Please note:** The passport should be valid for at least three months after your visa has expired.

Two application forms for a national visa, duly completed in German or English and which you sign. Below are important **notes** for your application:

- You can use the pdf **“Application for a national visa”** or complete the [electronic application form for a long-term stay – VIDEX](#) for the immigration office and print it out afterwards. Check the website of the German embassy to find out which procedure is prescribed for you. The electronic application form is mandatory for some German diplomatic missions abroad. You will find the web address of the German embassy in your home country via the [Department of Foreign Affairs](#).
- For **“Purpose for stay in the Federal Republic of Germany** (GER: Zweck des Aufenthaltes in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland)”, provide → **“Employment** (GER: Erwerbstätigkeit)”.
- For **“If applicable, intended employment** (GER: Ggf. beabsichtigte Erwerbstätigkeit)” → **“self-employed as [please provide the profession in which you want to become self-employed] 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)”.
- In addition, provide for **“Intended duration of stay in Germany** (GER: Beabsichtigte Dauer des Aufenthaltes in Deutschland)” in **“From** (GER: Von)” → **your planned date of entry**” and in **“To** (GER: Bis)” → **“Permanent residence planned** (GER: Daueraufenthalt geplant)”.
- To make it easier for you to understand, we have visualised the respective text parts in the form for you.

Three identical current biometric passport photographs with white background.

Your valid residence permit for the country in which you are applying (only valid, when you are a citizen of the country in which you are applying)

Proof of medical insurance in Germany. **Note:** Your medical insurance must be valid for a minimum of 180 days from the day of your arrival.

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, proof of foreign language skills with 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.

Your business plan in German.

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 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.

A list of the shareholders. **Please note:** this is only required if you want to form a corporation with other persons.

The fee for a visa is EUR 75 - you can pay in your national currency.

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 on the website of the German embassy or the German consulate whether additional documents are required.

