



Working in Germany: the official website for qualified professionals

At a glance: Visa for self-employment

Visa and entry procedure for immigrants from third countries subject to visa obligation General entitlement requirements (Section 5 Act on the Residence - AufenthG): passport, proof of financial means, no existing reason for expulsion



Step 1

Check requirements

Self-employed:

- · Proof of economic interest in Germany
- · Positive impact of the business project on German economy
- Secure financial means (equity capital or loan commitment)
- Individuals over 45 years of age: adequate pension provision necessary

Freelancer:

- Professional license to exercise the self-employed activity (e.g. training diploma)
- · Proof of financial capability
- · Means to support yourself
- Individuals over 45 years of age: adequate pension provision necessary



Step 3

Apply for visa in country of residence

- · Bring documents in their entirety
- Fees: EUR 75 (in local currency)

Please consider: Processing time ranges from a few days to several weeks.



Step 5

Apply for residence permit

- · Make appointment with foreigners authority
- Apply for residence permit for self-employment (Section 21 Act on the Residence - AufenthG)
- Request a list of the required documents from the foreigners authority and prepare them
- Handling fees can be up to EUR 100 (Section 45 Residence Ordinance - AufenthV)

Please consider: Residence permit must be applied for before the expiry of the entry visa.

Step 2



Make an appointment at the German embassy

 Preparation of necessary documents: e.g. passport, business plan, proof of financial means, visa application form

Please consider: The German embassies provide information about possible waiting times for appointments and any additional documents that may be required on their websites.

Step 4



Enter Germany

- · Issuance of visa for self-employment in Germany
- · Book flight/journey to Germany

Please consider: It is mandatory to have sufficient health insurance coverage prior to entering Germany.

This overview is a simplified representation of the visa procedure. The steps described are solely for the purpose of clarifying the application procedure for residence permits. Further details on the visa application procedure and information on important points of contact can be found at www.make-it-in-germany.com.

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