



## Information on national visa

### GENERAL INFORMATION

If you intend to stay more than 90 days in Germany, you require a national visa („D-Visa“). In order to be able to issue such a visa, in general either the Aliens Authority at the intended place of residence in Germany or, in cases of intended work, the German Federal Agency of Labor has to give their consent. Processing times can vary greatly, from few working days to several months.

— A visa can only be issued if the intended purpose of stay is sanctioned either in the German Residence Act (Aufenthaltsgesetz – AufenthG) or the German Employment Regulations (Beschäftigungsverordnung – BeschV).

The national visa has a validity of three to six months. After arrival in Germany, a residence permit with a longer validity has to be applied at the local Aliens' Authority. Please contact them to book an appointment immediately after you have arrived. If the intended duration is a year or less, for example for an exchange semester, it is possible to issue a visa for the entire duration of stay.

The national visa includes the possibility to travel to the other Schengen member states for up to three months in a period of six months as a tourist or visitor. A valid passport is required.

The Embassy advises you not to book flights, resign from your employment, sell off property etc. as long as you have not been issued with a national visa. Even if you have pre-consent to the visa by the Aliens' Authority or Labor Agency, this does not automatically mean that you will be issued with a visa.

### JURISDICTION

The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Nairobi is in charge of visa application for people residing in Kenya, Eritrea, Burundi, the Seychelles and Somalia.

Please be advised that the Embassy can only accept and process applications for people with residence in these countries. Applications of people that are only here short-term, such as on vacation or only for the purpose of making a visa application, will not be accepted, even if they are made by Kenyan, Eritrean, Burundian, Seychelloise or Somalian citizens.

### APPLICATION

After booking an appointment, all applicants make their applications in person at the visa section.

The appointment for the application of a national visa can only be booked through the [website of the Embassy](#). Please be advised that every applicant, including children, requires an individual appointment.

## DOCUMENTS FOR YOUR VISA APPLICATION

Information on the necessary documents for each intended purposes of stay can be found on the Embassy's website [www.nairobi.diplo.de](http://www.nairobi.diplo.de) under Visa/Consular and then national visa/long-term stay.

If you think there is insufficient information on your intended purpose of stay or you think your purpose of stay is not listed, please contact the visa section through [visainfo@nair.auswaertiges-amt.de](mailto:visainfo@nair.auswaertiges-amt.de)

The information on necessary documents in the information leaflets cannot be final or all-inclusive, as every application is taken into consideration individually and in regards to the legal requirements. So if the individual case makes it necessary, documents in addition to those listed in the information can and will be requested.

Applicants under the age of 18 require consent from their legal custodians. If these are not personally present when the application is made, consent has to be given in the form of an affidavit. In individual cases, the personal presence of one or all the legal custodians may be required.

### Certificates from Kenya:

Kenya is not a member state of the convention on Apostilles and legalizations of certificates from Kenya has been ceased. It is possible to verify Kenyan certificates by request of German authorities. If such a verification is necessary can only be determined once an application has been made.

### Certificates from Eritrea:

Eritrea is not a member state of the convention on Apostilles and there is no legalization of Eritrean certificates. Eritrean certificates have to be certified by the Eritrean Foreign Ministry to be used in a visa application.

### Certificates from Burundi:

Burundi is a member state of the convention on Apostilles, but Germany has ceased the acknowledgement of Burundian Apostilles; a legalization cannot be done either. In individual cases, a verification of a certificate can be done by request of a German authority.

### Certificates from the Seychelles:

Certificates such as birth or marriage certificates have to have an Apostille, issued by the authorities of the Seychelles.

### Certificates from Somalia:

Somalia is not a member state of the convention on Apostilles and the legalization of certificates from Somalia has been ceased. A verification of Somalian certificates is not possible.

Further information can be found in German only on the website in the [consular area](#).

## ADDITIONAL SUBMISSIONS

The Embassy reserves the right to request additional documents, even after the application was accepted. These additional documents should be submitted as quickly as possible to avoid unnecessary delays in processing the application. Documents can be submitted any time through the mail box of the visa section, on the right hand side between first and second guard posts on the premises of the Embassy. If we have only requested copies, they can be sent as a pdf-attachment per mail to the mail-address [visainfo@nair.auswaertiges-amt.de](mailto:visainfo@nair.auswaertiges-amt.de)

Please make sure, that a passport- or application number is noted on the submission because otherwise it cannot be matched to an application.

Please refrain from submitting documents that have not been explicitly requested by us.

## TRANSLATIONS

In general, all documents have to be in German or be accompanied by a translation into German. If the documents are in English, we generally waive the translation. However, if there are authorities in Germany involved, we might have to request a translation at a later time. You will be advised in which form the translation has to be done when we request it.

Also, the application has to be completed in German.

## VISA FEE

The visa fee has to be paid in Kenyan Shilling at the exchange rate of the Embassy at the time of application. It is stipulated by law as:

National visa (category D visa)	75,00 Euro
Children up to the age of 18 (category D visa)	37,50 Euro

Payment can be done in Kenyan Shilling in cash or per credit card (Visa, Mastercard) but credit card payments are unfortunately prone to technical difficulties.

If a visa application is refused or you wish to withdraw an application, there is no reimbursement of the fee.

## STATUS UPDATES

We ask for your understanding that requests for status updates cannot be answered within the first six weeks after application. The Embassy has no influence over the processing times of authorities in Germany.

Please be advised that due to protection of personal data regulations detailed information in visa matters can only be given to the applicant or a person that has received written power of attorney from the applicant.

## RETURN OF PASSPORTS

When applying, you can organize for the passport to be returned by courier service G4S nationwide in Kenya and immediately after a decision on the application was made. If you reside in Eritrea, Burundi or the Seychelles, we will discuss with you at your application how the passport is returned. In these cases either personal pick-up or pick-up through an International courier service organized by you is possible. Somalian applicants always have to personally pick-up their passports.

## IMPORTANT AFTER RECEIVING A NATIONAL VISA

Please check the data on your visa immediately after receipt, especially the starting date of validity. Please also check the spelling of your whole name. Please let us know immediately if you think there is a mistake.

## IN CASE OF A VISA REFUSAL

If your application has been refused, you have the possibility to “remonstrate” in writing, e. g. object to the refusal. This remonstrations has to be done in writing, in German and it has to be signed. In the case of a remonstrations, the Embassy will re-examine the application and, if applicable, contact the necessary authorities in Germany again. A processing time of several months has to be expected.

**This fact sheet reflects the legal situation at the time of drafting it. It is regularly updated but makes no claim to be complete. Authoritative version of the fact sheet is the German version.**