



Visa for skilled workers with vocational training qualification (Section 18a Residence Act)

General information

You apply for a visa **in person at the Embassy in Stockholm**, with all documents stated below. Applications are accepted by appointment only, which is to be booked **online, via the link on our homepage**. Please note that the processing of your application usually takes several weeks. You need to present your original passport when you apply.

Basic information

- Documents not in the German language must be submitted with a certified German translation. A translation of the personal data page of the passport is, however, not required.
- Certificates, diplomas, etc. must be presented in the original with apostille/legalisation. Your original documents will be returned to you once your application has been processed.
- The visa must be approved by the Federal Employment Agency and, where applicable, the competent foreigners authority in Germany. The visa can only be issued when these approvals have been received.
- **Processing time is as a rule ca. 4 – 6 weeks** but can take longer in individual cases.
- Flight reservations are not required to apply for a visa – please only book when you have received your visa.
- The embassy reserves the right to request further documents.
- Missing documentation delays the procedure and can result in your application being rejected.
- **Please do not contact the embassy to check the status of your application during the normal processing period.** Such inquiries are extremely time-consuming for the visa section and can thus not be answered.

General information

As a skilled worker with vocational training qualification, you can be issued with a residence permit to engage in skilled employment that your qualification enables you to perform.

Please note that some university degrees from foreign universities are classified as vocational training qualifications in Germany.

You can find out more about living and working in Germany at www.make-it-in-germany.com

Use the following checklist to make sure your application documents are complete. All documents listed here are to be submitted in the requested **form and order**.



Last updated: November 2024

Visa application checklist

The following documents are to be submitted in full with every application.

- One fully completed and signed applications including declarations pursuant to Section 54 Residence Act
- One recent biometric passport photo (see specimen photos)
- Valid passport (personally signed and with at least two (2) completely empty pages)
- One uncertified copy of the data page of your valid passport
- A valid Swedish residence permit (original + 1 copy): *Uppehållstillstånd*-card
- Extract of the population register *Personbevis (familjebevis)* in English, issued, sealed and signed by the Swedish tax authority *Skatteverket*
- Application fee, at the moment **860,- SEK**, depending on exchange rate (originally **€ 75,-**). The fee can be paid with credit/debit card (MasterCard/VISA only) or in cash (Swedish kronor only)
- Postage fee 140,- SEK for registered mail return of your passport when the visa has been issued.
- Completed form signed by your employer: [Declaration of employment](#) (original and one copy)
- From the age of 45: **Proof of adequate provision for old age** (original and one copy (only if salary does not amount to at least 55% of the annual contribution assessment ceiling for the general pension insurance scheme – 2021: 46,860 € gross/per annum))
- Notification of recognition of foreign vocational training:** Written notification of the agency responsible for recognition of vocations in Germany (original and one copy)

or (in the case of regulated professions in which permission is required to exercise the profession, for example, in the care sector; complete list is available from the [Federal Employment Agency](#) or the [European Commission](#))

Permission to exercise a profession issued by the authority responsible for recognising qualifications or assurance of permission to exercise a profession (original and one copy) (for example, for medical professions)

More information on recognition: www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de
- Proof of qualification, for example, diplomas, certificates, work log with translation and proof of completion (original and one copy)



Proof of adequate health insurance cover

If as an employee you are subject to mandatory statutory health insurance, you must bear in mind that this insurance can only begin when you take up residence in Germany and enter into employment. If you enter Germany beforehand, private health insurance must be taken out for the period prior to employment beginning and prior to being eligible for statutory health insurance. In its terms and conditions, travel health insurance can exclude protection if a long-term or permanent stay is planned. So-called incoming travel insurance can also contain such exclusions.

Please note: The embassy reserves the right to ask for additional documents or information deemed necessary for processing your application at any time during the process and assumes no responsibility for applications submitted too close to your planned departure. Submission of the above-mentioned documents does not guarantee that a visa is granted.

Please note: The Visa Section is not able to provide individual advice or pre-screening of documents. In case of further inquiries that are not being answered on our website, you may contact the Visa Section via Email at visa@stoc.diplo.de