



# General Information sheet for a German National Visa

1. Basic information (also application form) can be found on our website here:  
<https://kigali.diplo.de/rw-en/service/05-VisaEinreise>
2. It is advised to **apply well in advance** (3 months before your intended arrival)!
3. National visas are issued for long-term stays for a particular purpose. **Usually issued for 90 days**. After entering Germany, visa holders must apply for a residence permit as a general rule.
4. Documents not in the English, German or French language must be submitted with a certified translation into one of these languages. A translation of the personal data page of the passport is, however, not required.
5. Certificates, diplomas, etc. **must be presented in the original** eventually with apostille/legalization. Please contact the German Embassy of the country where the certificate has been issued. Your original documents will be returned to you once your application has been processed.
6. **Processing time is as a rule ca. 8-10 weeks** but can take longer in individual cases.
7. Flight reservations are not required to apply for a national visa – please only book when you have received your visa.
8. The Embassy reserves the right to request further documents.
9. Missing documentation delays the procedure and can result in your application being rejected.
10. In most cases, visa applications must be approved by the relevant **local immigration authority** (Ausländerbehörde) and/or by the Federal Employment in Germany. The visa can only be issued when this approval has been received.
11. **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.