

## Family reunion with foreign spouse or children

### General information

- General processing time for a complete application is about 8 - 12 weeks; in specific cases e.g. upon request of German authorities it might take longer.
- The visa only can be issued upon approval of the competent Aliens Authority in Germany.
- Please take note that some authorities in Germany may require documents translated into German and with proof of authenticity (for Canada: legalization).
- No flight reservation is required at the time of your appointment; please book your trip only after having received your passport including visa.
- All holders of a national visa are by law required to register with the local registration office within 2 weeks after moving in. Please refer to the requirements on the website of your local registration office for further information.
- A visa for family reunion is a national, which entitles you to enter other countries in the Schengen zone for a stay up to 90 days within 180 days.
- **Please refrain from inquiries about the state of processing during the regular processing time as the visa section is not able to answer these.**

If you are married or get married to a foreign citizen (non EU), or if you are a parent of a minor child living in Germany and wish to seek gainful permanent residency in Germany (or staying in Germany longer than 3 months) in order to live with your family, it is required to obtain a residence permit in the form of a visa.

Upon submission of ALL the required documents, the application will be forwarded to the competent German Aliens Authority ("Ausländeramt"). Permanent residence visa applications take up to 12 weeks to be processed. After the application has been approved by the Aliens Authority, the German Consulate will issue a residence permit in the form of a visa with the duration for the first 90 days. A final residence permit will be granted in Germany by the Aliens Authority. This kind of residence permit does also include a work permit.

Please prepare **2 identical sets** of **application documents** with **all** of the following documents in the order indicated below and **submit with a print-out of the list**.

Original documents will be returned to you while a copy per set will be required.

**Please not that incomplete applications will be decided based on the documents submitted and may result in the rejection of your application.**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<a href="http://www.canada.diplo.de/longstay">www.canada.diplo.de/longstay</a> <a href="mailto:visa@toro.diplo.de">visa@toro.diplo.de</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Valid passport</b> (issued within the last 10 years and valid for at least 6 months after arriving in Germany with at least two empty pages)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Proof of legal status in Canada</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Application form</b> fully completed including declaration Section 54 (2) 8, <b>duly signed</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Declaration “Use of mail services”, duly signed</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Passport size picture, stamped</b> , not older than three months with a bright background and frontal view of the face (please do not fix the picture to the application form) <b>Digitally-altered passport pictures will not be accepted</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Copy of your <b>passport’s data page</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Copy of your <b>Canadian residence permit</b> , e.g. work permit, study permit, etc. – if applicable
<input type="checkbox"/>	- <b>original marriage certificate and copy, OR</b> - original birth certificate long form of your child and copies, <b>OR</b> - registration of marriage appointment in Germany
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Proof of German language skills</b> , at least level A1
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Proof of housing</b> in Germany, including full address and postal code (e.g. renting contract, hotel reservation, OR invitation letter in case of private accommodation, with name and passport copy of the inviting person)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Prepaid self-addressed Xpresspost envelope</b> (Canada Post only), <b>Regional Standard</b> to Ontario or <b>National Standard</b> to all other provinces (shipment to a Canadian address only)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Visa fee</b> (please check our website)
<b>To be provided after the approval of the visa:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Flight reservation/itinerary</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof of <b>travel health insurance</b> (Canadian or German), for the first 90 days in Germany with a minimum coverage of 30.000,00 EUR (approx. 50,000.00 CAD), including the following details: name of insured person, length of coverage, insurance sum and repatriation coverage. Please note that health insurance coverage by <b>credit card</b> is <u>not valid</u> unless you present a letter from the credit card company with details of coverage of your trip.

**Please note** that the German Consulate reserves the right to ask for additional documents or information deemed necessary for processing your application at any time during processing 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.

### **Additional information regarding German language skills**

In order to facilitate integration, visa applicants generally must prove basic German skills when applying for a visa.

Competency in the German language in this case means that the applicant has the ability to communicate in German on at least a basic level, i.e. holds a certificate of successful completion of a German language course level A1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. Certificates issued by an institution which performs testing in accordance with the standards of the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE) are accepted. These requirements are only met by the Goethe-Institute. For information on language tests at the Goethe-Institute, please visit their webpage: [www.goethe.de](http://www.goethe.de)

#### **Exceptions:**

- If the applicant is married to a citizen of the EU (other than Germany), German language skills are not required according to the FreizügG/EU
- If the applicant is married to a citizen of Australia, Israel, Japan, Canada, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Andorra, Brazil, El Salvador, Honduras, Monaco or San Marino, German language skills are not required.

Other exceptions may apply. This can only be determined after reviewing **ALL** documents during your appointment.

For further information such as **passport and photo requirements** please visit our **website** [www.canada.diplo.de/longstay](http://www.canada.diplo.de/longstay) and visa-related **FaQ**.

Please note: The Visa Section is not able to **provide individual advice** or **pre-screening** of documents. In case of further **inquiries not answered on our website/ FaQ**, you may contact the Visa Section via email at [visa@toro.diplo.de](mailto:visa@toro.diplo.de).