



## Family reunion with foreign spouse or children

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.

A visa in order to live in Germany is a national visa and does also entitle you to enter the other Schengen countries for the duration for up to 90 days for tourist purposes.

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.

All residence permit holders are required to register with the local registration office upon their first arrival.

### 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 Canadian citizen, German language skills are not required

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

Please prepare **two identical application sets** with **all** of the following documents in the **given order**.

**Incomplete documentation 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> (approximately 120.00 CAD – cash/mastercard/visa)	
<b>To be provided prior to final approval of the visa application:</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Flight reservation/itinerary</b> (including your name) to Germany	
<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 at any time during processing. Submission of the above mentioned documents does **not** guarantee that a visa is granted.