



# Family reunion with a German citizen

Last update: December 2022

## General information:

- If the applicant is married or will get married to a German citizen, or if the applicant is a parent of a German (unborn) child and wishes to reside permanently in Germany (or stay longer than 3 months) in order to live with the family, it is required to obtain a residence permit in the form of a visa.
- In case of a family reunion with a German spouse or fiancé the applicant needs to prove basic German language skills when applying for the visa. (Please read the additional information on the second page!)
- Processing the visa application takes up **to 12 weeks** upon submission of complete documents. The residence permit can be issued only upon approval by the competent authorities in Germany. The applicant will receive a prompt notification upon completion of the processing. **We ask that no status request is made if the required processing period has not yet passed.**
- After the application has been approved, the German Embassy will only issue an entry permit in a form of a visa with the duration of 90 days. A final residence permit for the whole duration of the stay will be granted in Germany by the Aliens Authority. The Aliens Authority requires all residence permit holders to register upon their first arrival.
- It is recommended that no flight ticket is purchased until a visa has been granted!
- Each applicant must submit **two identical application sets** with **all** the following documents. (Copies will not be made by the Embassy.)
- Further documentation may be requested in each individual case.
- Please see our website for additional information: [Website of the German Embassy Windhoek \(www.windhoek.diplo.de\)](http://www.windhoek.diplo.de)

Please read the following checklist, fill in the application form completely and provide two identical application sets (only complete applications can be processed!)

Submission of the following documents does **not** guarantee that a visa will be granted.

Please sort the documents exactly in the following order:

- duly completed **visa application form**
  - please open the online application form [Videx \(www.videx.diplo.de\)](http://www.videx.diplo.de)
  - fill it in fully and correctly in English or German
  - download the completed form as a PDF-file, then
  - print it
  - date and sign it
- **2 recent passport photographs** according to biometric specifications
- **Original passport** (or travel document) valid for at least 3 months longer than the intended stay. It must contain at least two blank pages and must have been issued within the last 10 years.
- Provide a copy of a) the passport data page, b) previous Schengen visas within last 3 years and c) valid USA/UK visas if available.
- For Non-Namibian citizens: Proof of legal residence in Namibia.
- Depending on the purpose of the visa application please submit (Original and 2 copies):
  - **marriage certificate** or
  - registration of **marriage appointment** in Germany or
  - **birth certificate** of the German child or
  - **acknowledgement of paternity** of the German unborn child

NOTE: Please note that foreign certificates must be recognized legally for Germany – for example a Namibian certificate needs an “Apostille” please see further information on the [Website of the consular section of the German Embassy Windhoek](#) or the Website of the German Embassy in the country where the certificate was issued.

- copy of **proof of German language skills** (at least level A1)
 

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 an Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE) are accepted. These requirements are met in Namibia by the Goethe-Institute. For information on language tests please visit their website: [Goethe-Institute Namibia](#)

Exceptions: If the applicant shows sufficient German language skills by the time of the visa application at the Embassy, no further proof would be required. Further exceptions may apply and will be checked upon application.

For additional information please see the [Website of the BAMF](#).
- copy of the **ID-Card (Personalausweis)** or **passport with a registration certificate (Meldebescheinigung)** from the German family member
- **proof of accommodation** in Germany with **full address** (e. g. renting contract, hotel reservation or invitation letter in case of private accommodation with name, full address and passport copy of inviting person)
- **proof of family members earnings / financing of living in Germany** (e. g. work contract, scholarship, bursary)

**ONLY TO BE PROVIDED AFTER THE APPROVAL OF THE VISA**

(The applicant will be informed by the Embassy via e-mail!)

- **Flight reservation / itinerary** with the applicant's name (no final booking needed).
- IF APPLICABLE (not applicable for spouses of German citizen): **Travel/medical insurance** (coverage for medical expenses/repatriation/pre-existing: EUR 30,000, valid for the entire Schengen area for the duration of the applicant's planned stay). It is a requirement that claims against the insurance company must be recoverable in a Member State. The insured party, policy validity period, geographical coverage and schedule of benefits must be mentioned in the policy schedule/certificate.