



INFORMATION ABOUT PROVING BASIC GERMAN KNOWLEDGE WHEN APPLYING FOR FAMILY REUNION VISA TO A (FUTURE) SPOUSE LIVING IN GERMANY

- Do you want to move to your spouse who is living in Germany?
- Do you want to accompany your spouse to Germany long term?
- Do you want to go to Germany to get married and live with your spouse in Germany?

In these cases you need to prove before entering Germany that you have a basic knowledge of German. This is to make sure you can communicate about basic needs in Germany right from the beginning.

1. What does basic knowledge mean?

Basic German knowledge is German on level A1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. You need to be able to lead a simple conversation of daily life such as asking for directions, go shopping etc. You should be able to ask and answer simple questions about yourself and others, i.e. where you live and what you do. You should also be able to read and write simple sentences so you can fill out forms with information like name, nationality, date of birth etc.

To find out more please refer to:

<http://www.goethe.de/ger>

2. Where and how can I learn German?

If you do not have a basic knowledge of German yet, there are several possibilities to learn, either with a private tutor, at a language institute or through the internet. There is no need to take a particular course. However, during the visa process, only certain certificates will be recognized as proof of language skills.

Useful addresses and links:

- <http://www.goethe.de>
- <http://www.dw-world.de> , <http://mobile.dw-world.de>
- <http://www.testdaf.de>
- www.bamf.de/ehgattennachzug

3. How can I prove basic knowledge of German?

Usually, you need to prove basic German knowledge by the time you apply for the visa; in exceptional cases it is enough if you prove them just before receiving the visa. In order to be accepted as proof, certificates must be certified by ALTE.

Following certificate are accepted by the German Embassy during the visa process:

Adresse:
P.O. Box 94001
Riyadh 11693
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Post:
Auswärtiges Amt
Botschaft Riad
11013 Berlin

Telefon:
00966 (0) 11 2776 969
So.- Do.: 13:00 – 15:00 Uhr

Telefax:
00966 (0) 11 488 02 79

E-mail:
info@riad.diplo.de

Internet:
www.riad.diplo.de

- „Start Deutsch 1“ of the Goethe Institute.
- „Start Deutsch 1“ der Telc Ltd. (The European Language Certificate)
- „Grundstufe Deutsch 1“ of the Austrian Language Diploma (ÖSD)
- „TestDaF“ of TestDaF-Instituts (Institute of the Fernuniversität Hagen and the Ruhr-Universität Bochum)

Please ask at the language institute of your choice if they offer recognized certificates

Please submit the original certificate and two copies when applying.

4. Are there exceptions?

In the following cases, proof of basic German knowledge is not necessary:

A. If you have been married before your spouse moved to Germany and your spouse holds a residence permit for highly qualified academics, researcher or company founder.

B. If your spouse

- Holds a „Blue Card EU“
- Is a researcher in Germany
- Recognized asylum seeker
- Recognized refugee
- Citizen of the EU with a permanent residence permit (Daueraufenthaltsberechtigung)
- Citizen of Australia, Israel, Japan, Canada, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the United States of America, Honduras, Monaco, San Marina, Brasil or El Salvador
- Citizen of a member of the EU (except Germany)

C. You are unable to learn German due to a sickness (mental, physical or psychological). Medical proof needed, original and 2 copies and a German translation. If an exemption applies will be decided together with the competent Alien's authority.

D. If there is apparently only little need for integration; this is usually the case if the applicant holds a university degree (four years; bachelor) and already has a job and is currently working. In this case, please submit your university degree, declaration of your current employer and/or proof of employment in Germany -- original and two copies with German translation. If an exception applies will be decided together with the Alien's authority during the visa process.

E. If you obviously speak German and prove this during the interview at the Embassy.

F. You join your German child in Germany or move together with your German child to Germany.

G. Other exemption might be possible, i.e. if the applicant has tried in vain for a period over at least a year to learn German or if the circumstances make it impossible to learn German. This is an individual exemption that will be closely evaluated together with the Alien's authority in Germany.