



## Visa for research stay (Section 18d Residence Act)

### General information

You apply for a visa **in person at the Embassy in Stockholm**, with all documents stated below. Applications are accepted by appointment only, which is to be booked **online, via the link on our homepage**. Please note that the processing of your application usually takes several weeks. You need to present your original passport when you apply.

### Basic information

- Documents not in the German language must be submitted with a certified German translation. A translation of the personal data page of the passport is, however, not required.
- Certificates, diplomas, etc. must be presented in the original with apostille/legalisation. Your original documents will be returned to you once your application has been processed.
- **Processing time is as a rule ca. 4 – 6 weeks** but can take longer in individual cases.
- Flight reservations are not required to apply for a visa – please only book when you have received your visa.
- The embassy reserves the right to request further documents.
- Missing documentation delays the procedure and can result in your application being rejected.
- **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.

### General information

Researchers are third-country nationals who

1. have a doctoral degree or a suitable university degree that allows access to doctorate programmes and
2. have been selected by a research institute and are allowed in the national territory of a member state
3. in order to engage in research for which such a qualification is normally required.

Note: This includes doctorate students unless they are enrolled at a German university to complete a full-time study programme leading to a doctoral degree as their primary activity.

If you are taking part in a full-time study programme, please read the information sheet Visa for doctorate students.

Use the following checklist to make sure your application documents are complete. All documents listed here are to be submitted in the requested **form and order**.



Last updated: March 2023

### Visa application checklist

The following documents are to be submitted in full with every application.

- One fully completed and signed applications including declarations pursuant to Section 54 Residence Act
- One recent biometric passport photo (see specimen photos)
- Valid passport (personally signed and with at least 2 completely empty pages)
- One uncertified copy of the data page of your valid passport
- A valid Swedish residence permit (original + 1 copy): *Uppehållstillstånd*-card
- Extract of the population register *Personbevis (familjebevis)* in English, issued, sealed and signed by the Swedish tax authority *Skatteverket*
- Application fee, at the moment **860,- SEK**, depending on exchange rate (originally **€ 75,-**). The fee can be paid with credit/debit card (MasterCard/VISA only) or in cash (Swedish kronor only)
- Postage fee 100,- SEK for registered mail return of your passport when the visa has been issued
- Signed research agreement or relevant contract with a German research institute (original and one copy)  
The research agreement/relevant contract needs to contain certain information. You can find a specimen [here](#).
- Proof of qualification: Proof of doctoral degree or university degree that allows access to doctorate programmes (all pages, original and one copy)
- Written commitment to cover costs emerging for public agencies up to six months after the end of the admission agreement (original and one copy) – *this is not required if the work of the research institute is primarily public funded or if there is a specific public interest*
- Proof of adequate financial means  
Financing  
To stay in Germany the applicant must have at their disposal **at least 947 € per month** if they are not entering into a contract of employment. Proof of these financial means can be provided through the admission agreement/relevant contract. If a contract of employment is planned, proof of the statutory minimum wage of **1647 €** must be provided. When submitting an application, proof must be provided of financial means for the entire duration of the stay.  
In the case of financing in the form of a blocked account: Open the blocked account **in good time BEFORE** you apply for a visa. When applying for a visa, **only the official confirmation of the opening of the account** including information on the amount paid in and the amount available per month will be accepted. A confirmation which does not include this information is not sufficient.



Last updated: March 2023

Proof of adequate health insurance cover

If as an employee you are subject to mandatory statutory health insurance, you must bear in mind that this insurance can only begin when you take up residence in Germany and enter into employment. If you enter Germany beforehand, private health insurance must be taken out for the period prior to employment beginning and prior to being eligible for statutory health insurance. In its terms and conditions, travel health insurance can exclude protection if a long-term or permanent stay is planned. So-called incoming travel insurance can also contain such exclusions.

**Please note:** The embassy reserves the right to ask for additional documents or information deemed necessary for processing your application at any time during the process 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.

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