

## Visa for skilled workers holding a university degree (Section 18b (1) 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.
- The visa must be approved by the Federal Employment Agency and, where applicable, the competent foreigners authority in Germany. The visa can only be issued when this approval has been received.
- **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

As a skilled worker with an academic qualification recognised in Germany, you can be issued with a residence permit to engage in skilled employment that your qualification enables you to perform.

You can find out more about living and working in Germany at [www.make-it-in-germany.com](http://www.make-it-in-germany.com)

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**.

### Visa application checklist

The following documents are to be submitted in full with every application also in the case of persons travelling together (e.g. spouses or children).

- One fully completed and signed applications including declarations pursuant to Section 54 Residence Act
- One recent biometric passport photo (see specimen photos)
- Valid and personally signed passport with at least two (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 140,- SEK for registered mail return of your passport when the visa has been issued
- Completed form signed by your employer: [Declaration of employment](#) (original with one copy)
- From the age of 45: **Proof of adequate provision for old age** (original and one copy (only if salary does not amount to at least 55% of the annual contribution assessment ceiling for the general pension insurance scheme – 2021: 46,860 € gross/per annum))
- Proof of qualification: University qualification (all pages, original and one copy)



Proof of **recognition of the qualification**:

-> One **printout from the [anabin database](#)** on the qualification and on the institution

or (if the qualification is not assessed as “entspricht” (comparable) or “gleichwertig” (equivalent) and/or the institution is not classified as “H+”)

-> **Statement of Comparability** by the [Central Office for Foreign Education \(ZAB\)](#)  
(original with one copy)

or (in the case of regulated professions in which permission is required to exercise the profession, for example, doctors, engineers; complete list is available from the [Federal Employment Agency](#) or the [European Commission](#))

-> **Permission to exercise a profession** issued by the authority responsible for recognizing qualifications or assurance of permission to exercise a profession (original and one copy) (for example, for medical professions: decision of the licensing authority in the federal territory, i.e. assurance of permission to exercise a profession and/or issuing of medical license)

More information on recognition: [www.anererkennung-in-deutschland.de](http://www.anererkennung-in-deutschland.de)

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.