What Are the Requirements to Apply for a Tourist/Visitor Visa to Germany?

German authorities follow certain (strict) rules and requirements when it comes to issuing a visa. Subsequently, it is important to be aware of all the requirements before submitting an application.

**Here are the required documents you need to apply for a visitor/tourist visa to Germany:**

* [**Visa application form**](https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/download-schengen-visa-application-form/). Fully completed with the correct information, printed and signed at the end.
* **Two recent photos**. Taken within the last three months, in compliance with the [Schengen visa photo criteria](https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/schengen-visa-application-requirements/photo-requirements/).
* **Valid passport**. No older than ten years and with a minimum validity of three months beyond your planned stay in Schengen. It must have at least two blank pages in order to be able to affix the visa sticker.
* **Roundtrip reservation or itinerary**. A document that includes dates and flight numbers specifying entry and exit from the Schengen area. Find out [how to get a flight reservation for a tourist visa](https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/flight-itinerary-visa-application/) application.
* [**Travel Health Insurance**](https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/schengen-visa-insurance/)**.** Evidence that you have purchased health insurance that covers medical emergencies with a minimum of €30,000, for your whole period of stay. **The insurance policy can easily be purchased online from [Europ Assistance](https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/insurance/europ-assistance" \t "_blank),**[**AXA Schengen**](https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/insurance/axa)**or**[***DR-WALTER***](https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/insurance/DR-WALTER)**. *Travel insurance policies issued by all of these companies are accepted by German embassies/consulates worldwide.***
* [**Proof of accommodation**](https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/schengen-visa-application-requirements/proof-accommodation/). Evidence that shows where you will be staying throughout your time in Schengen. This could be a:
  + **Hotel/hostel booking.**With name, complete address, phone and e-mail, for the entire time you will be in the Schengen area. (Check [Booking.com](https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/booking/germany) or [HotelsCombined](https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/hotelscombined/germany" \t "_blank) to find cheap hotels in Germany!)
  + Rent agreement. If you have rented a place, in the country you will be staying.
* Letter of tour organizer. If you will be travelling with a tour agency.
* [**Proof of financial means**](https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/schengen-visa-application-requirements/means-subsistence/). Evidence that shows you have enough money to support yourself throughout your stay in Schengen. This could be a:
  + **Bank account statement**.
  + [**Sponsorship Letter**](https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/sponsorship-letter/). When another person will be financially sponsoring your trip to the Schengen Zone. It is also often called an Affidavit of Support.
  + **A combination of both**.
* [**Invitation letter**](https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/invitation-letter-schengen-visa/)**from your host in Germany**with a copy of their passport and/or residence permit for Germany
* **Proof of relationship with the host residing in Germany**.
* [**Verpflichtungserklärung**](https://www.germany-visa.org/verpflichtungserklarungen/)**.**In case your host will be covering all your expenses, they need to sign this document, also known as **a letter of commitment**. The form can be obtained from the German immigration authorities at the place of residence of your host, whose solvency will be verified by these authorities.
* **Evidence of employment status**.
  + **If employed**:
    - Employment contract,
    - Leave permission from the employer
    - Income Tax Return
  + **If self-employed:**
    - A copy of your business license,
    - Company’s bank statement of the latest 6 months
    - Income Tax Return (ITR)
  + **If a student**:
    - Proof of enrolment &
    - [No Objection Letter from University](https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/obtain-free-no-objection-letter-template-visa-application/)
* **Travel Itinerary**. A description of your trip to Europe, your purpose of travelling, which places are you going to visit in Europe, the time frame and all the personal data.
* **For Minors**:
  + Either birth certificate/proof of adoption/custody decree if parents are divorced / death certificate of the parent.
  + Letter of consent from parents, including passport copies of both parents/ legal guardian.