

OVERVIEW: GERMANY VISA FOR SELF-EMPLOYED BUSINESS

Get an appointment

Appointments must be made at the foreign mission that has jurisdiction over your place of residence or regular domicile. For an overview of the official districts and to find the appropriate consulate, use the consulate finder PDF. Appointments must be booked exclusively through VFS or directly at the Embassy/Consulate

Apply for a visa

Ensure you arrive punctually for your scheduled appointment with all necessary documents organized and ready according to the provided checklist. Hand over the documents and answer a few questions in an interview.

The standard processing time for an entrepreneur/self-employment visa application in Germany is between 8 to 12 weeks.

Get a visa

The German authorities will carefully evaluate your business plan's viability, economic benefits, financing, and your entrepreneurial capabilities before making a decision.

If approved, you will receive a residence permit for self-employment, initially valid for up to 3 years. This permit allows you to travel to Germany and start your business.

1

Organize Your Application

When applying for the entrepreneur visa, you will need to submit:

- Duly completed and signed visa application form, including the declaration page
- Valid passport with at least two blank pages
- Detailed and comprehensive business plan covering:
 - Business concept and legal form
 - Financing and investment plan
 - Capital requirement plan
 - Revenue forecast for first 3 years
 - Market and competitive analysis
 - Marketing strategy
 - Expected number of employees/trainees
 - Innovation and research aspects (if applicable)
- Proof of available capital or loan commitments to finance the business
- Curriculum Vitae highlighting relevant qualifications and experience
- Proof of qualifications (degrees, training certificates, etc.)
- Proof of health insurance coverage valid in Germany
- For applicants aged 45 or above, proof of adequate retirement provisions or pension plan
- Passport photographs as per specifications
- Visa fee payment
- Other supporting documents like employment contracts, business registration, rental agreements, etc. depending on the specific business

2

3

4

5

Go to Germany to start a business

Congratulations! You can now travel to Germany to start your business.