



# Visa for the purpose of family reunion

---

If you wish to apply for a long term visa for family reunion, you have to submit the documents as indicated below depending on the purpose of your visa application (joining a spouse, family reunion for children or joining a child residing in Germany). Please make sure to review the requirements carefully and adhere to them, as this will save you valuable time and effort throughout the visa application process.

The fee for a visa for the purpose of family reunion is the equivalent of 75 Euro. The fee must be paid in cash, in Uganda Shillings upon application. For spouses of German or EU-citizens, parents of a German or EU-minor, children of a German or EU-national under 18 years or children under the age of six years the visa fee is waived.

Applications must be submitted in person and may not be submitted by courier, regular post, fax or e-mail. The appointment has to be made through our online appointment system. **Please note that only complete applications will be accepted.**

It is at the discretion of the German authorities involved to insist that all relevant Ugandan documents are verified, since legalization of Ugandan documents is not possible. This process concerns genuineness, correctness of content and if they were issued in accordance with the then valid Ugandan law. You will find more information on the verification process on our website: [www.kampala.diplo.de](http://www.kampala.diplo.de)

The German Embassy can only accept applications **if you have lived in Uganda or South Sudan for more than 6 months with a valid residence permit**. If this is not the case you are not eligible to apply. In that case your appointment will be deleted.

## *Important Notes*

Please note that each visa application is reviewed individually. Therefore, the requested documents may vary. The German Embassy reserves the right to ask for additional documents. The submission of the above mentioned documents does not guarantee the issuance of the visa. Applicants may, at any time, be asked for a personal interview. Submission of incomplete documentation or refusal to attend the mandatory visa interview will result in a refusal of your visa application. Once a visa has been issued, the purpose of the trip may not be altered.

It takes approximately three to six months to process the verification and your visa application. **We strongly recommend that you do not purchase an airline ticket unless the visa has been granted.** We kindly ask that no status requests on the visa application be made during the first three months. We will notify the applicant on any change of status or progress of the application as soon as possible and whenever the need arises.

**Upon receiving the visa:** Please check visa data for possible mistakes as soon as you receive your passport. Pay particular attention to the visa's validity (start and end dates). Also check the correct spelling of your name as well as the number of entries you were granted. The visa section must be informed of possible mistakes immediately and cannot be held responsible for any problems that occur as a result of incorrect data or a missing signature in the travel document.

This fact sheet is regularly updated but makes no claim to be complete.



# Requirements for joining a spouse

---

You need to apply for this visa if you want to join your spouse in Germany. **Please submit the following documents in original and two copies as indicated below.**

## Original documents:

- Two duly completed Application forms "Application for a National Visa" (please ensure that you sign the form and add your phone number)
- A valid passport with at least two blank pages and valid for at least another six months (please ensure that your passport is signed) with two copies of the passport including bio data page and the page with the passport file number
- Two recent passport photographs according to biometric specifications
- Two Declarations of True and Complete Information in accordance with Section 54(2)8 & 53 Residence Act, signed and dated ( to be downloaded from the website)

## Original and two copies:

- Marriage certificate, if applicable divorce papers in case of previous marriage  
In case of religious marriage: Proof of registration from the registrar's office of the country where the marriage took place
- If the marriage took place in another country than the country of origin: Proof of civil status before the marriage from the competent authority of the country of origin
- Birth certificate of the applicant
- Proof of valid travel insurance, if joining the German statutory/national/private or family health insurance is not possible before arrival in Germany
- Invitation letter indicating the address where the applicant will stay together with the spouse
- Copy of the passport or ID-Card of your spouse
- Copy of the residence permit if your spouse is not a German national
- Proof of the German language knowledge according to the level A1 e.g a Language Certificate "Start 1 Deutsch" from the Goethe Institut, not older than two years. In Uganda the competent authority is the Goethe-Zentrum.

## *Legislation provides for exemptions for the need to furnish proof of basic knowledge of German:*

### *(a) Exemptions based on the applicant:*

- when knowledge of German is obvious (= clearly identifiable knowledge of German when submitting application in person)
- **in the case of university graduates with good employment and integration prospects**
- when the planned stay in Germany is only temporary
- when re-entering Germany, i.e. if the applicant has previously lived in Germany with a permanent residence permit pursuant to the Residence Act
- if in the long term it is impossible for the applicant to learn a foreign language due to physical, intellectual or mental disability or illness



*(b) Exemptions based on the reference person of the principal person entitled:*

- if the spouse living in Germany is a national of one of the states listed in section 41 of the Ordinance Governing Residence, or enjoys freedom of movement in Germany, that is, nationals of a member state of the EU (other than Germany) or the EEA states Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein or Switzerland
- **in the case of subsequent immigration to join experts, researchers and self-employed persons**, if the spouse is in possession of an EU Blue Card, an ICT card, a mobile ICT card or a residence permit for certain researchers (section 18b (2) Residence Act (EU Blue Card), section 19 Residence Act (ICT card), section 19b Residence Act (mobile ICT card), section 18d Residence Act (research), section 18f Residence Act (mobile researchers))
- in the case of subsequent immigration to join highly skilled persons (section 18c (3) Residence Act) or self-employed persons (section 21 Residence Act) provided that the marriage predates the principal person entitled moving their main place of residence to the federal territory
- if immediately prior to being granted a permanent settlement permit or an EU long-term residence permit the principal person entitled had a residence permit pursuant to section 18d Residence Act (research)
- **in the case of subsequent immigration to join beneficiaries of protection**, provided that the marriage predates the beneficiary moving their main place of residence to Germany

An additional exemption applies if, due to special circumstances, it is not possible or it is deemed unreasonable to expect the spouse to endeavor to acquire basic knowledge of the German language prior to entering the country.

This applies in particular if language courses are permanently not available in the relevant country or if attending such classes entails a major security risk and if other promising alternatives (for example, using books or online courses) to learn the language and proof thereof are not available.

If you believe that you satisfy the requirements for such an exemption, you must provide relevant proof of the existence of the reason for the exemption when submitting your application.

If you are not sure whether or not one of the exemptions applies to you or what proof is required, you can inquire by describing your situation in an email ([visa@kamp.diplo.de](mailto:visa@kamp.diplo.de)).



# Requirements for family reunion for children

---

You need to apply for this visa if a child is supposed to join one or both parent(s) in Germany. **Please submit the following documents in original and two copies as indicated below.**

## Original documents:

- Two duly completed Application forms "Application for a National Visa" (please ensure that every person exercising custody for the child signs the form and add your phone number).
- A valid passport with at least two blank pages and valid for at least another six months (please ensure that your passport is signed) with two copies of the passport including bio data page and the page with the passport file number
- Two recent passport photograph according to biometric specifications
- Two Declarations of True and Complete Information in accordance with Section 54(2)8 & 53 Residence Act, signed and dated

## Original and two copies:

- Birth certificate of the applicant
- Invitation letter by the parent(s) in Germany
- If applicable: marriage certificate for the parents (see above)
- If the child wishes to join only one parent please provide one of the following:
- valid court order for custody including the grounds on which the judgment is based
- Other similar proof of the sole right of custody
- Death certificate of the other parent who exercised custody over the child
- If applicable: acknowledgement of paternity
- If the applicant is 16 years old or older: Language Certificate "C 1" from the Goethe Institut. In Uganda the competent authority is the Goethe-Zentrum.

## Two copies:

- Copy of the parent(s)' passport(s) with a copy of the residence permit(s) – if applicable



# Requirements for joining a child residing in Germany

---

You need to apply for this visa if the mother or father of a child wants to join this child in Germany. It also applies if the parent wants to move to Germany together with the child. **Please submit the following documents in original and two copies as indicated below.**

## Original documents:

- Two duly completed Application forms "Application for a National Visa" (please ensure that every person exercising custody for the child signs the form and add your phone number).
- A valid passport with at least two blank pages and valid for at least another six months (please ensure that your passport is signed) with two copies of the passport including bio data page and the page with the passport file number
- Two recent passport photograph according to biometric specifications
- Two Declarations of True and Complete Information in accordance with Section 54(2)8 & 53 Residence Act, signed and dated

## Original and two copies:

- Birth certificate of the child or acknowledgement of paternity before child is born and proof of pregnancy by doctor
- Proof of German nationality or residence status of the child (if applicable – German passport, acknowledgement of paternity, marriage certificate of parents)
- Proof of custody (if applicable – marriage certificate or valid custody order). If only one parents exercises custody over the child, please provide one of the following:
  - valid court order for custody including the grounds on which the judgment is based
  - Other similar proof of the sole right of custody
  - Death certificate of the other parent who exercised custody over the child