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## Renewing Your Aufenthaltstitel — How to Do It Correctly

Apply in time, gather the right documents, and get a Fiktionsbescheinigung. Here's what you need to know about renewing your residence permit.

**Deutsche Begriffe:** Aufenthaltstitel | Verlängerung | Ausländerbehörde | Fiktionsbescheinigung | eAT

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## Renewing Your Aufenthaltstitel — How to Do It Correctly

> As of: March 2026. All information without warranty.

### When to Apply?

Submit your renewal application **in good time** — ideally **6-8 weeks** before your current Aufenthaltstitel expires. Reasons:

- Waiting times at the Ausländerbehörde are often long (4-12 weeks)
- As long as you apply on time, you can stay in Germany with a **Fiktionsbescheinigung**

### What is a Fiktionsbescheinigung?

If you apply **before expiration**, you receive a **Fiktionsbescheinigung** (§ 81 Abs. 4 AufenthG):

- It certifies that your residence continues to be considered lawful
- You can continue working (if your previous permit allowed it)
- It remains valid until a decision is made on your application

⚠ **IMPORTANT:** If you apply **after expiration**, you have no entitlement to a Fiktionsbescheinigung!

## Required Documents (Standard)

- 1. Application form** (from the Ausländerbehörde or online)
- 2. Current passport** (valid for the duration of your intended stay)
- 3. Biometric passport photo** (35×45 mm, not older than 6 months)
- 4. Registration certificate** (not older than 6 months)
- 5. Health insurance proof**
- 6. Proof of financial support:**
  - Employment contract + last 3 pay slips
  - or bank statements from the last 3 months
- 7. Proof of accommodation** (rental agreement)
- 8. Old Aufenthaltstitel** (eAT card)

Additionally, depending on your purpose of stay:

- **Employment:** Employer's certificate, job description
- **Studies:** University enrollment certificate, proof of academic progress
- **Family reunion:** A1 language certificate, marriage certificate

## Costs

- Renewal: **93-100 €** (depending on federal state)
- eAT card (electronic residence permit): included in fee

## Tips

- **Book an online appointment** — attendance in person is usually mandatory
- Bring all documents as **copies + originals**
- **Bring an interpreter** if you're not yet confident in German
- If you **lose your job**, inform the Ausländerbehörde immediately (don't wait!)
- Your old eAT card will be confiscated — your new permit arrives by post (2-4 weeks)

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