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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

Renewing Your Aufenthaltstitel — How to Do It Correctly

> 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)