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## Residence Permit — Aufenthaltstitel in Germany

Types of residence permits, how to extend them, and the path to permanent settlement.

**Deutsche Begriffe:** Aufenthaltstitel | Aufenthaltserlaubnis | Niederlassungserlaubnis | Ausländerbehörde | Visum

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## Residence Permit — Aufenthaltstitel

### Who Needs Aufenthaltstitel?

- **EU Citizens:** NO (freedom of movement)
- **Non-EU Citizens:** YES, required

### Types of Permits

#### 1. Visum (Visa)

- Temporary, for entry
- Max 90 days (tourist) or longer (work)

#### 2. Aufenthaltserlaubnis (Residence Permit)

- Temporary (1-3 years)
- Tied to purpose (work, studies, family)
- Must be renewed

#### 3. Niederlassungserlaubnis (Settlement Permit)

- **Unlimited duration!**

- After 5 years with Aufenthaltserlaubnis
- Requirements: B1 German, employment, insurance

#### 4. Einbürgerung (Citizenship)

- After 5-8 years of residence (from 2024: possible after 5 years!)
- Must pass test and have B1 level

## How to Extend Aufenthaltstitel?

**1. 3 months before expiration** — submit application!

**2.** Book appointment at Ausländerbehörde

**3.** Prepare documents:

- Valid passport
- Biometric photo
- Meldebescheinigung (registration certificate)
- Proof of employment/income
- Health insurance

**4.** Pay fee (€50-100)

### Don't Wait Until the Last Moment!

If your residence expires without submitting an application — you lose your right to stay. Submit at least **8 weeks before** expiration.

## Fiktionsbescheinigung

If you submitted an application and your old permit expired — you'll receive Fiktionsbescheinigung. This document shows you're awaiting a decision and can legally reside.