HAMBOORG.CITY

Free platform for foreigners in Germany

✓ 24/7 Assistant in Your Language
✓ Official Document Scanner
✓ Deadline Reminders
✓ Benefit Calculators

hamboorg.city — is and will be FREE

Family Reunification in Germany — Familiennachzug

Family reunification (Familiennachzug) allows residents in Germany to bring family members. Sponsors must have stable residence, sufficient income, and housing; spouses must prove A1 German language skills and meet security requirements.

Deutsche Begriffe: Familiennachzug | Familienzusammenführung | Visum | Aufenthaltserlaubnis | Aufenthaltsgesetz | Visum zum Familiennachzug | Sprachnachweis | Apostille | Bürgergeld

---

Familiennachzug — Family Reunification

Familiennachzug (family reunification) allows you to bring your closest family to Germany. The legal basis is §§27–36 Aufenthaltsgesetz (AufenthG). The procedure is formalized and can take months — the key is early and complete document preparation.

Who can bring family?

A person living in Germany with one of these residence titles:

- Niederlassungserlaubnis (permanent residence)
- Aufenthaltserlaubnis (temporary, but stable) — see types of residence titles
- Blaue Karte EU
- Refugee status or supplementary protection status

Who can be brought?

- **Spouse or registered partner** — both must be at least 18 years old
- **Children up to age 18** (minors, unmarried)

• **Parents** — exceptionally, mainly for unaccompanied minor refugees

Conditions for spouse

Person in Germany must demonstrate:

• Valid residence title

• **Sufficient income** to support the family without social benefits (Bürgergeld)

• **Sufficiently large apartment** — Ausländerbehörde checks the square footage

• Health insurance covering the entire family

Incoming spouse must:

• Demonstrate knowledge of German at **A1 level** (Goethe or telc certificate)

• Have a valid passport

Exemptions from A1 requirement

A1 certificate is NOT required when:

• Person in Germany holds Blaue Karte EU, is a qualified Fachkraft, scientist, or self-employed

• Spouse is an EU/EEA or Swiss citizen

• Spouse is from a privileged country (USA, United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, and several others) — visa-free entry, language acquired in Germany

• Illness or disability makes language learning impossible

Step-by-step procedure

1. Spouse abroad applies for a national visa (Visum zum Familiennachzug) at the German embassy or consulate

2. Documents: passports, marriage certificate (Apostille + sworn translation), A1 certificate, proof of income and rental contract from Germany, proof of insurance

3. Embassy issues visa → entry to Germany

4. After arrival: registration (Anmeldung), then at **Ausländerbehörde** exchange visa for Aufenthaltserlaubnis

How long does it take and how much does it cost?

• **Processing time:** 2–6 months (sometimes longer — depends on embassy and country)

• **Visa:** approx. €75

• **Aufenthaltserlaubnis:** approx. €100–120

• **Translations + Apostille:** approx. €100–200

• **A1 course and certificate:** approx. €150–250

Permanent residence for family

Spouse of a qualified worker can obtain permanent residence after just **3 years** if they work at least 20 hours per week and meet other conditions.

Most common mistakes

• Submitting incomplete documents → requests for supplementary documentation extend the procedure by months

• Attempting to enter as a tourist and stay — this is illegal and seriously complicates future applications

• Lacking A1 despite no exemption → visa denial