



# HAMBOORG.CITY

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## 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

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## Family Reunification — Familiennachzug

### Who Can Sponsor Family?

A person in Germany with:

- Niederlassungserlaubnis (permanent residence)
- Aufenthaltserlaubnis (temporary but stable residence)
- EU Blue Card
- Refugee status

### Who Can Be Sponsored?

- **Spouse/Partner** (registered partnership)
- **Children** (up to 18 years old, some up to 21)
- **Parents** (rarely, mainly with refugee status)

### Requirements for Spouse

Person in Germany must have:

- Legal residence
- Sufficient income
- Adequately sized apartment
- Health insurance for the family

Spouse must:

- Speak German at **A1 level** (certificate required)
- Have valid passport
- Not pose security threat

Exceptions to A1 requirement:

- Spouse from EU
- EU Blue Card holder's family
- Highly qualified professionals
- Health issues preventing language learning

## How to Apply

Step 1: Spouse Abroad

Submits application at **German embassy** (family reunification visa)

Step 2: Documents

- Passports
- Marriage certificate (apostille + certified translation)
- A1 language certificate
- Income verification (from Germany)
- Rental agreement (from Germany)
- Health insurance

Step 3: Visa

Embassy issues visa → travel to Germany

## Step 4: Ausländerbehörde

In Germany → exchange visa for Aufenthaltserlaubnis

## Processing Time

- Visa approval: 2-6 months (sometimes longer!)
- Varies by embassy and country

## Costs

- Visa: ~€75
- Aufenthaltserlaubnis: ~€100-150
- Translations, apostille: ~€100-200
- A1 certificate: ~€150-200

## Important Notes

- Start gathering documents EARLY
- A1 can be taken abroad (Goethe-Institut)
- Do not attempt to enter as tourist and stay — it's illegal and damages future applications