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Visa Guide & Requirements for Germany

2023 Update



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Visa Guide Studying & Working in Germany

aka: Do I Need a Visa and if So, Which One?

Do I Need a Visa to Study and/or Work in Germany?

Whether you need a visa depends on your home country as well as the duration you would like to stay in Germany.

As a rule of thumb, citizens from countries that are part of the Schengen area¹ or participate in the visa-waiver program do not need a visa for **short-term stays up to 90 days**. Citizens from all other countries do need a visa, even for short-term stays. This is the so-called **Schengen Visa** encompassing **Business, Tourism & Visitor Visas**.

Check out [here](#) which countries fall within the **visa-waiver program** category and whose citizens require a visa for entering Germany. You can also consult this [visa requirement/exemption list](#) by the Federal Foreign Office or this [visa guide](#) providing additional info on who needs to obtain **residence permits**.

Anyone who wishes to stay in Germany longer than 90 days (**long-term stays**) must apply for a **Residence Visa** - This encompasses **Work Visas** incl. the **EU Blue Card, Study & Research Visas** as well as **Family Reunion Visas**.

You can check your visa requirements and then directly apply via the Federal Foreign Office's [Visa Navigator](#).

Additional Regulations

Please note additional regulations may apply, such as

¹ The Schengen area consists of the consists of 22 of the 27 EU member states plus the 4 EFTA countries, i.e.,

1. Austria, **2.** Belgium, **3.** Czech Republic, **4.** Denmark, **5.** Estonia, **6.** Finland, **7.** France, **8.** Germany, **9.** Greece, **10.** Hungary, **11.** Iceland, **12.** Italy, **13.** Latvia, **14.** Liechtenstein, **15.** Lithuania, **16.** Luxembourg, **17.** Malta, **18.** Netherlands, **19.** Norway, **20.** Poland, **21.** Portugal, **22.** Slovakia, **23.** Slovenia, **24.** Spain, **25.** Sweden, **26.** Switzerland

Visa Guide

Studying & Working in Germany

- **Mandatory Corona Testing & Quarantine**

(e.g., anyone immigrating from China will need to provide a negative PCR test result not older than 48 hours and will be subject to a strict 14-day quarantine upon their arrival – Quarantine rules also apply to those who are vaccinated and/or have recovered from COVID).

- **Post-BREXIT Regulations for Immigration from the UK**

After Brexit, UK citizens will need to use ETIAS (European Travel Information and Authorization System, the European equivalent to ESTA) once it becomes fully operational in May 2023 in order to immigrate to Germany. Non-British citizens with a minimum residence of 3 months in the UK immigrating from there will need a visa, unless they are nationals of countries that are part of the visa waiver program.

- **Registration with ETIAS**

ETIAS will also be needed in general for anyone immigrating from countries that are not part of the visa waiver programs, **starting in November 2023**. Registering will take approx. 10 minutes and you will receive your final reply with 96 hours, so factor in a work week in your preparations. ETIAS is valid for travel not only in Germany but within the entire Schengen Area.

Applying for Your Visa

- » If you need a visa to enter Germany in order to study or work there, you can apply for it at the [German Embassy or Consulate](#) in your country. You may also use this [interactive map](#) with world-wide contact points.

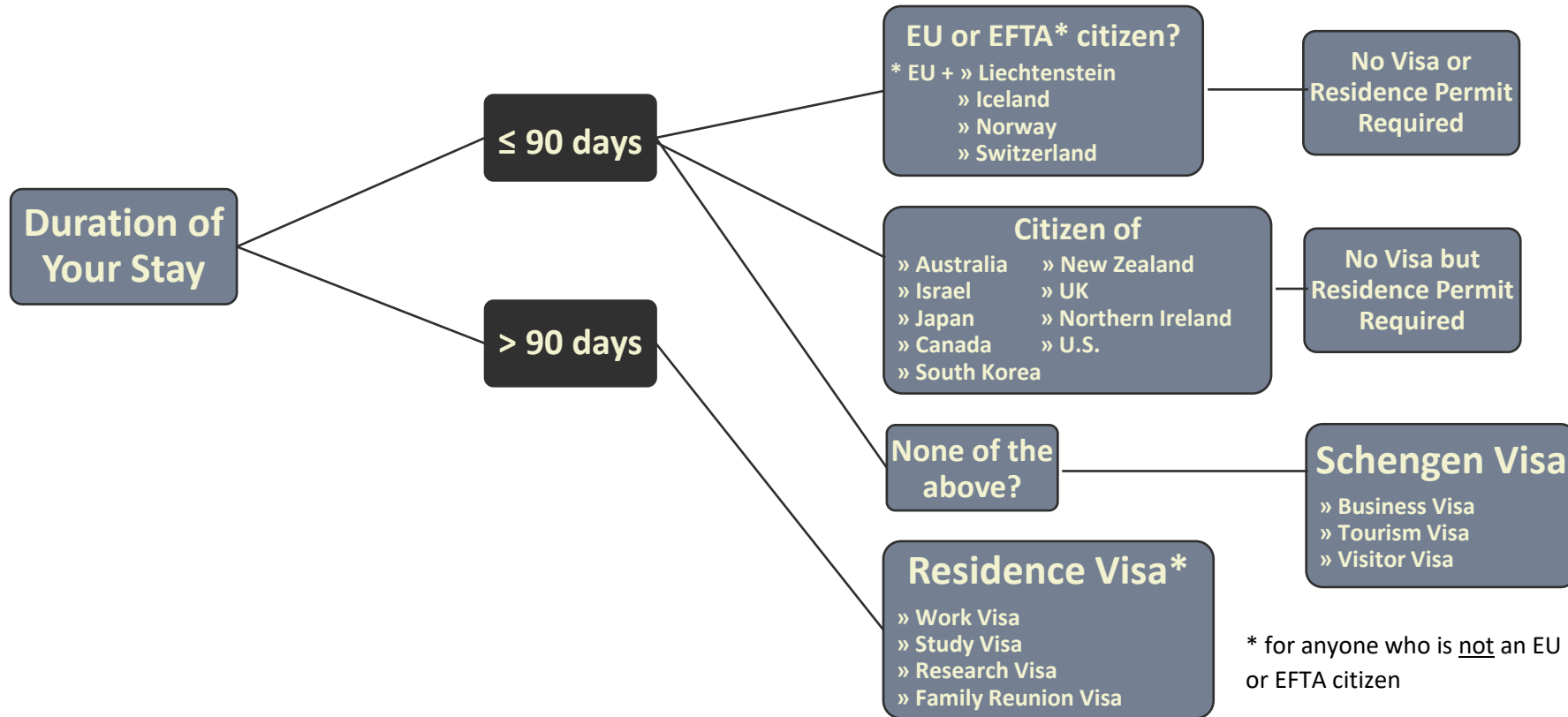
Sources

- » <https://visa.diplo.de/en/index.html#/vib>
- » <https://www.germany.info/us-en/service/visa>
- » <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/visa-service/-/231148>
- » <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/visa-service/-/231202>
- » <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/visa-service/-/215870>
- » <https://www.germany-visa.org/do-i-need-a-visa/>
- » <https://www.germany-visa.org/etias/>
- » <https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/visa-residence/procedure/do-i-need-visa>
- » <https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/service/advisory-contact-services/worldwide>
- » <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/coronavirus/faq-travel-1939244>

Visa Requirements



for Germany



» Apply for Your Visa at a [German Embassy or Consulate](#)

» [World Map Localizer](#) German Missions Abroad

» Start Application Process via [Visa Navigator](#)



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