Documents: Spouse / family joining someone in Germany

18 documents, 2026. Apply at the German mission or VFS centre in your home country. Items marked in orange apply only in that situation.

Identity and application

- [ ] **National visa application form, completed and signed**
  Fill it in online on the Consular Services Portal or VIDEX as your mission asks, print and sign it. Add the signed declaration on the duty to cooperate (§54 Residence Act) if requested.
- [ ] **Passport plus copies of the data page**
  Issued in the last 10 years, valid for at least 3 months beyond the planned stay, with at least 2 blank pages.
- [ ] **Two biometric photographs (35 × 45 mm)**
  Recent, neutral expression, light background.
- [ ] **Visa fee: €75 per adult, €37.50 per child**
  Paid in rupees at the visa centre. Not refunded if the visa is refused.
- [ ] **Cover letter**
  One page: who you are, why you are going, where you will work or study, what you enclose. Employers can generate one with our Blue Card letter generator.
- [ ] **Proof of address in the mission's area (if needed)**
  If the address in your passport is outside the area of the mission where you apply, e.g. an Aadhaar card or rental agreement.

Purpose of stay

- [ ] **Copy of your spouse's passport and German residence permit**
  The person in Germany you are joining.
- [ ] **Your spouse's employment contract and last 3 payslips**
  Shows the family can live without public funds.
- [ ] **Your spouse's rental contract and registration certificate (Meldebescheinigung)**
  Shows there is enough living space for the family.

Qualifications

- [ ] **German A1 certificate (only if required)**
  Not required if your spouse in Germany holds an EU Blue Card or a skilled-worker permit, and in some other cases. Ask the mission if unsure.

Money and insurance

- [ ] **Travel health insurance from the day of entry**
  Valid in all Schengen states, at least €30,000 cover, until your statutory or private insurance starts.

Family members

- [ ] **Marriage certificate (original and copies)** IF YOUR SPOUSE COMES
  The registered marriage certificate. Germany does not accept Indian apostilles; the German mission or authority may order a document verification instead (it takes weeks and costs a fee). Add a translation if it is not in English or German.

- [ ] **Children's birth certificates (originals) and passports** IF CHILDREN COME
  Naming both parents. Plus photos and application forms for each child. Indian apostilles are not accepted in Germany; the mission may verify the certificates.
- [ ] **Consent of the other parent (if only one parent travels with the child)** IF CHILDREN COME
  With proof of custody where relevant.
- [ ] **Children aged 16 or over: proof of German C1 or good integration prospects** CHILD 16+ NOT MOVING WITH BOTH PARENTS
  Applies only when the child does not move together with both parents.

Before you go

- [ ] **Certified translations of documents not in German or English**
  By a sworn translator; some missions accept translations made in India.
- [ ] **One full set of copies, in the order of the mission's checklist**
  Bring originals and copies. Check the current checklist of your mission before the appointment; it can differ from this list.
- [ ] **Visa appointment booked (VFS / mission)**
  Waiting times vary by city and season. Fast-track applicants get priority appointments.

> Bring originals and a full set of copies. Documents not in German or English need a certified translation. Germany does not accept Indian apostilles: German missions verify Indian civil documents case by case when the German authority asks for it.

Interactive version: desieuropeantales.com/document-checklist-generator?type=family · Orientation only, not legal advice. Check the official checklist of your German mission or foreigners' office before your appointment.