Documents: Skilled-worker visa (§18a / §18b)

26 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

- [ ] **Signed employment contract or binding job offer**
  With gross salary, weekly hours, job title, start date and duration. For a Blue Card: at least 6 months and the fixed salary at or above the threshold.
- [ ] **"Erklärung zum Beschäftigungsverhältnis" signed by the employer**
  The job description form the immigration office and the Federal Employment Agency use to check the job.
- [ ] **Pre-approval from the foreigners' office (fast-track procedure)** FAST-TRACK PROCEDURE ONLY
  Your employer applies under §81a and pays €411. Bring the pre-approval to the visa appointment.
- [ ] **Salary of at least €55,770 or proof of adequate pension provision** AGE 45+, FIRST PERMIT
  Required on a first skilled-worker permit from age 45 (2026 figure: 55% of the pension ceiling).

Qualifications

- [ ] **Degree certificate and mark sheets (originals and copies)** DEGREE HOLDERS
  Bachelor's and master's, with transcripts. Provisional certificates are accepted only in some cases.
- [ ] **anabin printouts: university "H+" and degree "entspricht"** IF ANABIN LISTS YOUR UNIVERSITY AND DEGREE
  Two printouts from anabin.kmk.org. If both entries exist, no further recognition is needed for non-regulated jobs.
- [ ] **ZAB statement of comparability** IF YOUR DEGREE IS NOT LISTED IN ANABIN
  Apply online at the ZAB when anabin does not clearly list your university or degree. Takes weeks; start early.

- [ ] **Recognition notice for your vocational qualification (Anerkennungsbescheid)** VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS
  From the competent German body. For the Opportunity Card a qualification recognised by your home country can be enough.
- [ ] **Licence to practise (Berufserlaubnis or Approbation) or proof the procedure has started** REGULATED PROFESSIONS ONLY
  Needed for regulated professions such as doctors, nurses, pharmacists and teachers.
- [ ] **CV in English or German, signed and dated**
  Matching your job description or study plans.

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.
- [ ] **Spouse's passport, photos, application form and fee** IF YOUR SPOUSE COMES
  Family members apply together with the main applicant where possible.
- [ ] **No German test for the spouse of a Blue Card holder or skilled worker** IF YOUR SPOUSE COMES
  Spouses of these permit holders do not need to prove A1 German, and may work in Germany.
- [ ] **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=skilled · Orientation only, not legal advice. Check the official checklist of your German mission or foreigners' office before your appointment.