



## Information on long-term visas for **Family Reunification**

### **Notice for Minors:**

Minors (under 18) can only apply for a visa themselves, if they are at least 16 years old. For younger applicants, at least one parent must be present when the visa application is made. In all cases of minor applicants the following documents are required:

- Birth certificate (also stating the names of the parents)
- Parents' passport and Irish residence documents, if Non-Irish nationals
- Written consent with signatures verified by public notary of legal guardians for the intended journey

The following documents must be submitted as **ORIGINALS AND AS 2 PHOTOCOPIES**.

1. **Completed application form** (for long stay visa)
2. **Recent passport sized photograph** => see additional leaflet
3. **Passport or travel document** valid for at least three months after the expiry date of the required visa with **at least two blank visa pages!** Only Passports that have been issued (not extended!!!) during the past ten years can be endorsed with a visa.
4. **Irish re-entry visa**
5. Irish Certificate of Registration (**GNIB card**)
6. **Birth certificate** or declaration of age in lieu of oath, if birth certificate is not available, translated into German or English language. The translation has to be attached and sealed to a certified copy of the original document and stamped by the translator. (see list on website)
7. **Marriage certificate** translated into German or English language. The translation has to be attached and sealed to a certified copy of the original document and stamped by the translator (certified and with Apostille - see information on website)
8. **Proof** that you and your spouse are able to **support** yourselves while living in the Federal Republic of Germany (bank statements, payslips of the last three months)
9. **Copy of spouse's / parent's passport** or ID card and residence permit, if applicable
10. **Proof of lease of an apartment / house or proof of ownership** of an apartment/ house in Germany.
11. **Proof of basic knowledge of German** (Competence level A1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for languages")

### **Proof of basic knowledge of German**

Basic knowledge of the German language is knowledge of the German language at "Competence level A1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for languages"2. This includes you being able to understand and use common, everyday expressions and very simple sentences (e.g. asking for directions, shopping, etc). You should be able to introduce yourself



and others and ask and answer questions about personal details such as where you live or what people you know. Of course, the person you are talking to must speak clearly and be prepared to help. You should also have basic German writing skills, e.g. you should be able to enter your name, address, nationality, etc. on forms.

For this, an A1 level certificate of one of the licensed examiners in Ireland must be submitted. The Examiner's institution must fulfil the standards of "ALTE" and must be an institution that is staffed by delegate employees.

**The Goethe Institutes are** the German cultural institutes abroad and **one of the above mentioned institutions**. They offer German lessons and examinations. The language test "Start Deutsch 1" can be taken at the Goethe Institute and their certificate **is one of** the possible proofs of basic knowledge of German

The language test can, however, also be taken at any other licensed examiner or in the premises of a partner institute of the Goethe Institute. You can find information on the Internet at the Goethe Institute homepage or at the Goethe Institute itself.

### **Proof of basic knowledge of German is NOT necessary**

- when there is a proven physical or mental disability
- for spouses of an EU-citizen
- for spouses of high educated persons, scientists, founders of a company or an approved refugee
- when there is noticeable little necessity of integration
- for spouses of citizens of the following countries: Australia, Israel, Japan, Canada, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand and the United States of America

With the judgement of the Federal Administrative Court (BVerwG 10 C 12.12) on 04.09.2012 the following exception was decided:

If the acquisition of basic German language skills abroad is not possible or unreasonable or not successful within a year (applies only to the following immigration of spouses to German spouse in Germany / "Nachzug zu Deutschen"), then the proof of language skills does not have to be provided. However, applicants need to show their efforts made to learn basic German language skills in a plausible and traceable way. The required basic language skills would have to be obtained after the arrival in Germany, in order to receive a residence permit as the spouse.

### **Please note:**

When applying for the visa, you may be asked to give your fingerprints in order to enable the German authorities to check their records for any previous stays in the European Union and any criminal record.

The Embassy may ask for additional documents and enquire for further information as applications are dealt with on a case to case basis. An application cannot be processed unless all the required documents are provided.

The visa can only be issued if the competent German authorities approve the application (local immigration office at the future place of residence). This procedure usually takes several months, at least 6-8 weeks. You will be notified as soon as the visa has been granted.

Usually, a visa for three months is issued by the Embassy. After arrival, the long-term residence permit can be obtained at the local immigration office.