

August 2023

Research Visa (Section 18d Residence Act)

Researchers are third-country nationals who

1. have a doctoral degree or a suitable university degree that allows access to doctorate programs and
2. have been selected by a research institute and are allowed in the national territory of a member state
3. in order to engage in research for which such a qualification is normally required.

Note: This includes doctorate students unless they are enrolled at a German university to complete a full-time study program leading to a doctoral degree as their primary activity.

If you are taking part in a full-time study program, please read the information sheet Visa for doctorate students.

Please make sure to prepare a complete set of the following documents (collated in the order as listed below with a legible, unstapled copy in DinA4 format) to submit during your appointment:

- fully completed and signed application including declaration pursuant to Section 54 Residence Act
- 1 recent biometric passport photo (see specimen photos)
- Valid and personally signed passport with at least two completely empty pages
- 1 uncertified copy of the data page of your valid passport
- Danish residence permit (card) -original + 1 copy (front and back)
- Proof of address in Denmark: yellow Danish health card (sygesikring) or bopælsattest (not older than 2 months) – original + 1 copy
- Signed Hosting agreement or relevant contract with a German research institute (original + 1 copy) The Hosting agreement/relevant contract needs to contain certain information. You can find a specimen here: [Hosting agreement § 18d AufenthG](#)
- Proof of qualification: Proof of doctoral degree or university degree that allows access to doctorate program (all pages) (with certified German translation) – original + 1 copy Diplomas issued in English do not need to be translated into German.
- Written commitment of the research institution to cover costs emerging for public authorities up to 6 months after the end of the hosting agreement – original + 1 copy (*this is not required if the work of the research institute is primarily public funded or if there is a specific public interest*)
- Proof of adequate financial means:
You must prove that you dispose of minimum 1.027 EUR per month. Proof can be provided by the hosting agreement/contract. If a contract of employment is planned, proof of the statutory minimum wage of 12 EUR/h must be provided. When submitting the application, proof of financial means for the entire stay has to be provided. – original + 1 copy

Financial proof via blocked account: please open the blocked account before submitting your visa application. You need to submit the official notice of the bank naming the total amount paid and the monthly available amount. – original + 1 copy

- Proof of adequate health insurance cover – original + 1 copy

If as an employee you are subject to mandatory statutory health insurance, you must bear in mind that this insurance can only begin when you take up residence in Germany and enter into employment. If you enter Germany beforehand, private health insurance must be taken out for the period prior to employment beginning and prior to being eligible for statutory health insurance. In its terms and conditions, travel health insurance can exclude protection if a long-term or permanent stay is planned. So-called incoming travel insurance can also contain such exclusions.

Fees:

75 €, payable either by Visa/Mastercard or in cash in DKK (approximately 560 DKK, depending on the exchange rate)

Additional information:

Missing documentation delays the procedure and can result in your application being rejected.

The embassy reserves the right to request further documents. Certificates, diplomas, etc. must be presented in the original with apostille/legalization.

Documents not in the German language must be submitted with a certified German translation.

The visa must be approved by the Federal Employment Agency and, where applicable, the competent foreigners authority in Germany. The visa can only be issued when this approval has been received. The processing time is as a rule ca. 2 - 6 weeks, but can take longer in individual cases.

Please do not contact the embassy to check the status of your application during the normal processing period. Such inquiries are extremely time-consuming for the visa section and can thus not be answered.

All data contained herein are based on the knowledge and experience of the Embassy at the time of drafting this information sheet. However, no liability can be assumed for the completeness and accuracy.

Visastelle der Deutschen Botschaft | Göteborg Plads 1, 2150 Kopenhagen Nordhavn | E-Mail: visa@kope.diplo.de