

Application for naturalisation

Checklist of required documents



To apply for naturalisation, you will need to provide various documents that support the information you have provided, in addition to the completed application form. You can find a list of possible documents you may need to submit with your application here.

In some cases, you may have to bring additional documents to your appointment which are not listed here. Your naturalisation authority will tell you which documents are required.

Please note: The naturalisation authority requires all documents in **German**. As a general rule, please submit documents from your country of origin both in their original language and as certified German translations. In some cases, documents from your country of origin may require legalisation or an Apostille certificate, that is, official confirmation that the signature on the document is authentic and that the agency that issued the document was authorised to do so. Your naturalisation authority can tell you whether legalisation or an Apostille certificate is required for a particular document.

Proof of your identity and nationality

For example:

- National passport
- If you don't have a passport: Official identity document such as a national ID card

Proof of your civil status

For example:

- A document from a German registry office, such as a marriage certificate or your child's birth certificate
- Excerpt from a family register
- Divorce decree
- Spouse's death certificate
- Adoption papers

Proof of your right of (permanent) residence

- Electronic residence permit (eAT card)

Proof that you have lived in Germany for at least three/five years

For example:

- Structured CV
- (Extended) certificate of registration (*Meldebescheinigung*)
- Certificate of enrolment at a German university or university of applied sciences
- Documentation of initial and advanced training
- Documentation of doctors' appointments

Proof that you can support yourself financially

Please note: Your ability to support yourself is always examined on an individual basis. This means that the documents listed here may or may not be necessary for your application depending on your individual situation. Your naturalisation authority will tell you whether you need to submit any additional documents.

For example:

General proof and documents:

- Regularly occurring expenses:
 - Rental contract
 - Utility bill (heating and water)
 - Heating bill
 - If you have private health insurance: statement of health insurance premiums
 - Information about costs of supporting family members
 - Proof of life insurance policy, if applicable
- If you do not have an income but do have significant financial assets:
 - Proof of financial assets: proof of investments and valuable items
 - Proof of income from capital
- Proof of other income (if available):
 - Documentation of rental income from property

Income from employment subject to social insurance contributions:

- Certificate of employment from your employer
- Record of pension insurance contributions
- Wage or salary statement
- Employment contract
- Statement of sickness benefits, if applicable

Income from self-employment:

- Business registration certificate
- Income tax statement
- Tax adviser's certificate stating profits from self-employment
- Proof of provision for retirement (self-employed persons)
- Proof of health insurance coverage

If you are currently a student or trainee:

- Proof of financial aid for school pupils/trainees/students, such as a BAföG notice
- Traineeship contract
- Wage or salary statement for income from part-time employment or trainee compensation
- Education transcript

If you are receiving government benefits:

- Notice of receipt of citizens benefit (*Bürgergeld*)
- Notice of receipt of housing benefit (*Wohngeld*)

- Notice of receipt of parental allowance (*Elterngeld*)
- Notice of receipt of unemployment benefit (*Arbeitslosengeld I*)
- Notice of receipt of child supplement (*Kinderzuschlag*)
- Notice of child benefit (*Kindergeld*)
- Notice of receipt of other social benefits

Proof of your knowledge of German

For example:

- Language certificate for proficiency at level B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). For naturalisation after three years of legal residence in Germany, your German language proficiency must be at least at level C1 of the CEFR. Language proficiency must be certified by one of the following:
 - telc language certificate
 - Goethe language certificate (*Goethe-Sprachzertifikat*)
 - G.A.S.T.e.V. (*Gesellschaft für akademische Studienvorbereitung und Testentwicklung e.V.*)
 - German language certificate, first level DSD I level B1 or first level DSD I PRO level B1 (*Deutsches Sprachdiplom – Erste Stufe DSD I Niveau B1 or Erste Stufe DSD I PRO Niveau B1*)
 - Austrian language certificate (*Österreichisches Sprachdiplom, ÖSD*)
- Certification from the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) of successful completion of a language course as part of the integration course
- Certification that you have attended a German-language school for at least four years and have advanced each year to the next level
- School-leaving certificate from a German-language school (at least *Hauptschulabschluss* or the equivalent)
- Report following the ninth year at a German school stating that you have advanced to a secondary school
- Degree from a German-language university or university of applied sciences
- Certification of having completed vocational training at a German business that provides training and at a vocational school

Proof of your knowledge of the legal system, society and way of life in Germany

For example:

- Naturalisation test (at least 17 correct answers out of 33)
- Successful completion of the “*Leben in Deutschland*” (Life in Germany) test
- German school-leaving certificate or higher-education degree