

The Fast-Track Procedure for Skilled Workers (Section 81a of the Residence Act [AufenthG]) – At a Glance

Step

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Step

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AUTHORISATION OF THE EMPLOYER

- The foreign professional grants a power of attorney to their future employer in Germany. The employer then initiates the fast-track procedure for skilled workers.
- The foreign professional sends the required documents to the employer: power of attorney, copy of passport and proof of professional qualification.

CONTACT WITH THE FOREIGNERS AUTHORITY IN GERMANY

- The employer makes an appointment with the competent foreigners authority for an initial consultation.
- The foreigners authority informs the employer about the procedural steps and their obligations.

CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN EMPLOYER AND FOREIGNERS AUTHORITY

- To carry out the procedure, the employer concludes a corresponding agreement with the foreigners authority. For this purpose, a fee of €411 is charged.
- The employer hands over all necessary application forms and documents (including power of attorney, passport copy and proof of professional qualifications of the skilled worker).

RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS

- The foreigners authority initiates the procedure: application and necessary documents are forwarded to the responsible offices. The foreign professional must be informed of any additional demands by the employer.
- The result of the procedure should be available within two months from the date the complete application documents were submitted. The foreigners authority complies with the deadline.

i Please note: employers should inform themselves in advance about the recognition procedure on www.make-it-in-germany.com.

APPROVAL PROCEDURE OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT AGENCY (BA)

- The foreigners authority initiates the procedure: The "Erklärung zum Beschäftigungsverhältnis" (Declaration of Employment) form including "Additional Sheet A" and, if necessary, a training plan are forwarded to the BA.
- The approval of the BA is deemed to have been granted if the BA does not communicate anything contrary within one week. The foreigners authority complies with the deadline.

i Please note: the approval procedure of the BA will depend on the outcome of the recognition procedure.

GRANTING OF THE PRELIMINARY APPROVAL TO THE VISA

- The preliminary approval is handed over to the employer by the foreigners authority if all requirements are met:
 - Recognition procedure of the professional qualification was completed successfully.
 - Permit for professional practice (if necessary) has been granted or assured.
 - Approval of the BA (if necessary) has been granted.
 - Residential law requirements (if conclusively verifiable in Germany) are met.
- The employer forwards the original document of the preliminary approval to the foreign professional.

APPLICATION FOR A VISA AT THE GERMAN MISSION ABROAD

- When booking an appointment to apply for a visa at the responsible mission abroad, the foreign professional shall indicate that preliminary approval has been obtained.
- The German mission abroad will schedule an appointment for the visa application within three weeks.
- Application for a visa with all necessary documents and examination of the legal requirements for residence.
- As a rule, a decision on the visa application is made within three weeks of the submission of all required documents.

This overview is a simplified representation of the fast-track procedure for skilled workers. The steps described serve exclusively to make the application procedure for residence titles clearer. Further details on the visa procedure and information on important points of contact can be found at www.make-it-in-germany.com.