

Family reunion visa (Spouses)/visa for marriage

Please prepare the following documents for your family reunion visa (**original + 1 copy per document**):

- completed application form (see our webpage)
- valid national passport
- valid Belgian residence permit
- residence certificate including the family members from the respective Belgian municipality (*composition de ménage/attest gezinssamenstelling*)
- marriage certificate
 - **when married in Belgium:** Multilingual and monolingual certificate. The certificate must not be older than three months.
 - **marriage certificate from other countries:** please check comments on certificates on page 2

If a religious marriage certificate has been issued, **submit this as well.**

- in case you or your spouse are divorced: certificate of divorce with legal validity note. See also page 2. If available: Recognition of divorce for German law
- **recent** residence certificate of spouse in Germany (**Meldebescheinigung**)
- **if your spouse is a German or EU citizen:** certified copy or original of German passport or identity card
- **if your spouse is a third country citizen:** certified copy or original of foreign passport and the residence permit for Germany
- **if you are not yet married :** certificate of the German registry office (Standesamt) confirming an appointment for the wedding ceremony
- proof of basic knowledge of the German language by means of a A1 certificate by a [ALTE](#)¹-certified testing body. See p. 3 for exceptions.
- proof of health insurance (Confirmation of admission into the family insurance and proof of insurance for the meantime)
- 1 biometrical passport photo (not older than 6 months)
- Visa fee of 75,00 € (cash or by Visa-/Mastercard, Bancontact is not possible)

¹ Association of Language Testers in Europe

Please make sure that your documents are complete, as incomplete applications may be rejected. If you do not dispose of a multilingual version of your marriage certificate and if your documents are not in English, German, French or Dutch, please provide a translation into German.

For foreign documents, an apostille or legalisation may be necessary. Please consult the website of the German Embassy in the country in which the document was issued. In some cases, the submission of additional documents may be required.

To hand in your application, please book an appointment on our website via this [link](#). If you wish to also apply for a visa for other family members, please book an additional appointment and check the information on « Family reunion visa (child to parent or parent to child) ».

Consultation by phone is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.

You can reach us via the following contact details:

phone: 02-787.18.18

fax: 02-787.28.18

e-mail: rk-115-di@bruessel.diplo.de

This information sheet has been prepared with utmost care. It is intended to provide a point of reference to our clients but may not be fully applicable to every individual case. We cannot accept any responsibility for inaccuracies contained in this information sheet.

Annexe: Waiver of proof of simple German language skills

The legislation provides exemptions from the requirement of proof of basic knowledge of the German language:

(a) Exemptions based on the applicant:

- when knowledge of German is obvious (= clearly identifiable knowledge of German when submitting application in person)
- in case if university graduates with good employment and integration prospects
- when the expected stay in Germany is only temporary
- when re-entering Germany, i.e. if the applicant has previously lived in Germany with a permanent residence permit pursuant to the Residence Act
- if it is permanently impossible for the applicant to learn a foreign language due to physical, intellectual or mental disability or illness

(b) Exemptions based on the reference person/ the principal person entitled:

- if the spouse living in Germany is a national of Australia, United Kingdom, Israel, Japan, Canada, Korea, Newzealand or the USA one of the states listed in section 41 of the Ordinance Governing Residence, or enjoys freedom of movement in Germany, that is, nationals of a member state of the EU (other than Germany) or the EEA states Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein or Switzerland
- in accordance with section 30 (1) 3 no. 5 of the Residence Act if the spouse to be joined is in possession of an EU Blue Card, an ICT card, a mobile ICT card or another residence permit as specialist, researcher, mobile researcher, civil servant, selfemployed person, highly practiced employee or employee in a special position (depending on an individual case decision)
- in the case of subsequent immigration to join beneficiaries of protection, provided the marriage predates the beneficiary moving their main place of residence to Germany

An additional exemption applies if, due to special circumstances, it is not possible or it is deemed unreasonable to expect the spouse to endeavour to acquire basic knowledge of the German language prior to entering the country.

If you believe that you satisfy the requirements for such an exemption, you must provide relevant proof of the existence of the reason for the exemption when submitting your application. If you are not sure whether or not one of the exemptions applies to you or what proof is required, you can inquire by describing your situation in an email to rk-115-di@bruessel.diplo.de.

You will find further information concerning basic language skills on the website of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees ([BAMF](#)).