

Fast-track procedure for skilled workers (Section 81a AufenthG – German Residence Act) – at a glance

Step 1



Authorisation of the employer

- The foreign professional grants a power of attorney to her/his future employer in Germany. He or she then initiates the expedited procedure for qualified professionals.
- The foreign professional sends the required documents to the employer: power of attorney, copy of passport and proof of professional qualification.

Step 2



Contact with the Foreigners Authority in Germany

- The employer makes an appointment with the relevant Foreigners Authority for an initial consultation.
- The Foreigners Authority informs the employer about the procedural steps and his or her obligations.

Step 3



Conclusion of an agreement between employer and Foreigners Authority

- To carry out the procedure, the employer concludes a corresponding agreement with the Foreigners Authority. Following this, a fee of EUR 411 is charged.
- The employer hands over all necessary applications and documents (including power of attorney, passport copy and proof of professional qualifications of the skilled worker).

Step 4



Recognition of foreign qualifications

- The Foreigners Authority initiates the procedure: Application and necessary documents are forwarded to the responsible offices. Any additional demands must be communicated by the employer to the foreign professional.
- The result of the procedure should be available within two months from the date of receipt of the complete application documents: The Foreigners Authority complies with the deadline.

Please note: Employers should inform themselves in advance about the recognition procedure on www.make-it-in-germany.de.

Step 5



Approval procedure of the Federal Employment Agency (BA)

- The Foreigners Authority initiates the procedure: The form „Declaration on the employment relationship“ 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.

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

Step 6



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 of the preliminary approval to the foreign professional.

Step 7



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 documents required.