



# Family reunion

1. Please read the following information as well as the list of required documents carefully.
2. Prepare the required documents for the application.
3. Book an [appointment](#).
4. Please sort your documents in the given order.

Please note:

- The principle of a **personal interview** also applies to applications for **underage children**.
- Due to the high workload and in order to ensure equal treatment of all applicants, the visa section can only accept applications for processing in the requested form.
- Submitting incomplete documents can lead to the rejection of the application.
- Submitted documents that are sent unrequested cannot be assigned to your application.
- All documents, leaflets and application forms provided by the Embassy are free of charge.
- All information concerning the processing of the application can be found on our [website](#)
- Please refrain from inquiries about the status of the application. Status inquiries do not speed up the visa process.
- For the list of documents which have to be presented for a family reunion to an underage child, please send us an E-Mail to [visa@riga.diplo.de](mailto:visa@riga.diplo.de)

## What kind of documents need to be submitted?

<b>1 Visa application form</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Completed either in German or English You can find the visa application form free of charge on our website. We recommend to use the VIDEX-System in order to fill out the form online: <a href="https://videx.diplo.de/videx/visum-erfassung/videx-langfristiger-aufenthalt">https://videx.diplo.de/videx/visum-erfassung/videx-langfristiger-aufenthalt</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Additional information on availability and representation You find the form on <a href="#">our website</a> .
<b>2 Travel document</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	passport <b>AND</b> a non-certified copy of all pages with entries The passport must provide at least two empty pages and must have been issued within the previous ten years. The passport does not remain at the Embassy during the visa application procedure. It only needs to be presented at the time of application and later on in order for the visa to be affixed.
<b>3 Residence permit</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Valid residence permit for Latvia <b>AND</b> non-certified copy of the front and back page

<b>4</b>	<b>Habitual residence</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof of habitual residence in Latvia	-e.g., through a current electricity or gas bill, tenancy agreement, registration card, excerpt of civil register, work or study certificate -the document must show your current address -alternately you can show a refugee registration or a different official letter issued by an authority that confirms your current address		
<b>5</b>	<b>Passport pictures</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Up-to-date biometric passport picture	The photo must meet <a href="#">certain requirements</a> . Please do not glue the photo to the application form.		
<b>Reunion to spouse or civil partner</b>				
<b>6</b>	<b>Proof of legal marriage</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marriage certificate with apostille <sup>1</sup> and notarized translation (original document and one non-certified copy)			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>When applying for marriage:</i> Written confirmation from a German registry office about the successful registration of the marriage (German original document with one non-certified copy)			
<b>7</b>	<b>Your spouse / fiancé / registered partner</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Passport copy of the spouse / fiancé / registered partner living in Germany			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Current extended registration certificate (erweiterte Meldebescheinigung) of the spouse / registered life partner in Germany (original document and one non-certified copy)	The registration certificate may not be older than 6 months and must contain details of the civil status.		
<b>When joining a foreigner (non-EU citizenship):</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Copy of the German residence permit (not certified)			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unauthorized copies of his / her salary statements for the last three months			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof of sufficient living space (non-certified copy)			
<b>8</b>	<b>Proof of basic German language skills</b>			
	Reunion to a German citizen	Reunion to another EU national	Reunion to a foreigner (non-EU citizenship)	To find out which certificates are currently recognized, please visit <a href="https://www.alte.org/Our-Full-Members">https://www.alte.org/Our-Full-Members</a> . Exceptions to the requirement of language skills can be found in the leaflet „Deutschkenntnisse beim Ehegatten-nachzug“.
<input type="checkbox"/>	proof of basic knowledge of the German language: certificate A1 (Start Deutsch 1) (original document and one non-certified copy)	proof of language skills is <u>not required</u>	proof of basic knowledge of the German language: certificate A1 (Start Deutsch 1) (original document and one non-certified copy)	
<b>Reunification with other family members</b>				
<b>6A</b>	<b>Proof of relationship</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Certificate of relationship between the applicant and the person living in Germany <u>with</u> an apostille <sup>1</sup> and a notarized translation (original document and one non-certified copy)			
<b>7A</b>	<b>Cohabitation in Germany</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-certified copy of the passport of the person to whom family reunification is sought			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Current extended registration certificate (erweiterte Meldebescheinigung) of the	The registration certificate must not be older than 6 months and must contain details of the civil status.		

<sup>1</sup> An apostille is only required for those documents that have **not** been issued in an EU or EEA country.

	spouse / registered life partner in Germany (original document and one non-certified copy)	
<b>Reunification with a German citizen:</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof in accordance with Section 36 (2) Sentence 1 AufenthG (German Residence Act) to avoid exceptional hardship	
<b>Reunification with an EU citizen (non-German citizen):</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof of regular support payments	You must provide evidence for a period of at least 6 months which proves you have received support payments from your relative. You can do this, for example, through copies of the transfer vouchers.
<b>Reunification with a foreigner (non-EU citizenship):</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof in accordance with Section 36 (2) Sentence 1 AufenthG (German Residence Act) to avoid exceptional hardship	
<b>9</b>	<b>Proof of housing</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof of housing in Germany with full address (e.g. rental contract, hotel booking, invitation letter)	
<b>10</b>	<b>Visa fees</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	€ 75.00 or € 37.50 for minors, to be paid by credit card (Mastercard / Visa) or in cash	
	This does <b>not apply</b> to spouses and children of EU citizens if they provide relevant evidence that they travel together with the spouse or travel to the spouse residing in Germany.	
<u>The embassy reserves the right to request additional documents in some cases.</u>		
<b>11</b>	<b>After the visa has been issued:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health insurance, which is valid for at least 3 months after entering Germany. For more information visit <a href="#">our website</a> .	

Processing time for a family reunification with a German citizen:  
About two to five months, in individual cases shorter or longer.

Processing time for a family reunification with EU nationals:  
About two to three weeks, in individual cases shorter or longer.

Processing time for a family reunification of foreign nationals (not EU nationals):  
About three to six months, in individual cases shorter or longer.

If the Embassy has questions in the course of the visa procedure or additional documents have to be submitted, we will contact you directly.