



June 2010

Information Sheet on German knowledge requirement for a Residence Permit for Family Reunion for Spouses

Dear Applicant,

thank you very much for your interest in applying for a German National Residence Permit for Family Reunion for Spouses. This information sheet is meant to provide detailed information on the requirement of German knowledge for accompanying spouses.

According to § 30 of the Immigration Law a foreign spouse wishing to join his or her partner in Germany is generally **required to speak basic German**.

The following applicants are exempted from this requirement:

- 1) Spouses of refugees, guest scientists, visiting scholars and highly qualified specialists holding an unlimited residence permit according to § 19 AufenthG (“Niederlassungserlaubnis”). This exemption is only applicable, if the marriage took place before the employed spouse (husband or wife) was granted a residence permit in Germany.
- 2) Spouses of citizens of the European Union, Australia, Israel, Japan, Canada, Republic of Korea, New Zealand and USA. Please be advised that spouses of German Citizens are **not** exempted.
- 3) Spouses of citizens who work for an internationally operating company and are going to live in Germany on a temporary basis only (upto 5 years). It is supposed that these couples have a minor need for integration into German society due to their temporary stay in Germany.
- 4) Spouses who are physically or mentally handicapped or a suffering from any other mental disease or handicap.
- 5) Spouses holding an academic degree of a well known, internationally recognized university themselves (minimum Master Degree) **which enables the applicant to qualified work in Germany and therefore helps to integrate in Germany**. The decision will be taken by the Aliens Authorities and the Consulate General together taking into account the circumstances of the application (e.g. subject of the degree, circumstances at the future place of residence in Germany).

All applicants, who do not belong to one of the above mentioned categories, have to prove basic German knowledge at the time of submission of their application for the German Residence Permit. Nevertheless, it is always recommended to attend a language course prior to the departure to Germany. This helps you to integrate in social life in Germany. Please be also informed that the Consulate General or the Aliens Authorities in Germany can ask for a language certificate even afterwards because of new findings during the decision process (**e.g. in exemption no. 5**)

As proof of German knowledge, a certificate of an institution teaching and testing according to the standards of the “Association of Language Testers in Europe” (ALTE). As of now, the following certificates fulfil this requirement:

- **“Start Deutsch 1 – Level A1” of any Goethe Institute/Max Müller Bhavan**
Website: www.goethe.org
- **“Start Deutsch 1” of “Telc gmbH” (The European Language Certificate)**
Website: www.telc.net
- **“Grundstufe Deutsch 1” of the Austrian Language Diploma (Österreichisches Sprachdiplom / ÖSD),** Website: www.osd.net
- **“TestDaF” by the “TestDaF” Institute**
Website: www.testdaf.de

Exams in South India are currently possible at Goethe Institutes (see last paragraph) and for TestDaF (see www.testdaf.de).

Certificates of a licensed partner of the above mentioned can be accepted in exceptional cases, if the licenser tests himself or is permanently represented at the issuing institution. Other language certificates cannot be recognized. Please note that you have to participate in the exams and submit the corresponding certificate indicating the test results. A course completion certificate without participation in the final exams is not sufficient. For further information regarding integration in Germany, you may also have a look on the website: www.integration-in-deutschland.de

In South India there are various Goethe Institutes/Max Müller Bhavans, which offer German language classes. It is possible for applicants with prior German knowledge to take the required language tests only. Here are the addresses and contacts of these Centers:

Max Müller Bhavan Chennai	No. 4 (Old No. 14) 5 th Street, Rutland Gate, Chennai 600 006 e-mail: il@chennai.goethe.org	Tel.: 044 - 2833 1314 / 2833 2343 Fax: 2833 2565
Max Müller Bhavan Bangalore	716, C.M.H. Road, Indiranagar 1 st Stage Bangalore 560 038 e-mail: info@bangalore.goethe.org	Tel.: 080 - 2520 5305 - 08 Fax: 080 - 2520 5309
Goethe Zentrum Coimbatore	President Hall, 734 Avinashi Road, Coimbatore 641 018 e-mail: german@cigca.org	Tel.: 0422 – 2213440
Goethe Zentrum Hyderabad	203 Hermitage Office Complex, Hill Fort Road, Nampally Hyderabad 500 063 e-mail: hydeutsch1@yahoo.co.in	Tel.: 040 - 6552 6443 Fax. 040 - 2324 1791
Goethe Zentrum Trivandrum	Casa Julia, University Road Trivandrum - 695034 e-mail: germantvm@gmail.com	Tel.: 0471 - 4011496