



Self-employed entrepreneurs and freelancer

Last update: December 2025

A residence permit for self-employment or for freelancers can be issued if:

- there is an economic interest or regional need
- the activity is expected to have a positive impact on the economy
- the financing is secured by equity or a loan commitment

Applications can be submitted in person, with prior [appointment](#) and the following application documents:

- Personally signed **passport** (original with one copy of the passport data page), with at least two completely empty pages and sufficient validity
- Valid **residence permit** for Switzerland or Liechtenstein one copy
- **Application form** fully completed and signed including declaration to section 54 residence Act: [application form](#) with one copy
- One passport sized [photo](#) – no older than three months, according to biometric standards
- Comprehensive **information outlining the business/** start-up idea, such as business plan, finances and liquidity plans as well as your revenue/ profitability forecast, declarations of intent
- **Articles of association** and extract from the **commercial register** with a copy
- **Proof of qualification** (certificates/ diploma) or evidence of relevant entrepreneurial experience with a copy
- **Evidence of sufficient funds** to support yourself during your stay with one copy
- Academic/ professional **curriculum vitae** (one copy)
- **Health insurance** confirmation for Germany and the Schengen zone when picking up the visa with one copy
- Applicants aged 45 and over must proof an adequate retirement provision (one copy)
- Postage expenses of 7 Swiss Francs
- Visa fee of 75 Euro payable by cash in Swiss Francs, by Visa or MasterCard (information [here](#))

Please prepare the originals with **one set** of copies of all the indicated documents. Original documents will be return to you while a copy per set will be required. Missing documentation delays the procedure and can result in your application being rejected.

The German Embassy Bern reserve the right to ask for additional documents at any time during the processing of your application.

In this visa category, most applications are typically processed within 3 months (no guarantee). Please do not contact the mission abroad to check the status of your application during the normal processing period. Such inquiries are extremely time-consuming for the visa department and cannot be answered. We will contact you by email as soon as the decision has been made.

Please note: Although the information in this information sheet has been prepared with utmost care, we cannot accept any responsibility for inaccuracies contained herein.