

## Residence Permit and Settlement Permit

Entrepreneurs from non-EU countries require a residence permit (*Aufenthaltserlaubnis*) or a settlement permit (*Niederlassungserlaubnis*) if they want to run a business in Germany on-site or if they are employed in Germany.

A residence permit is always limited in time, a settlement permit is unlimited. A settlement permit will usually be issued, if a non-EU citizen has been in possession of a residence permit for at least five years. Both residence and settlement permit are always issued for a specific purpose, usually for the purpose of self-employment or for the purpose of taking up employment in Germany. For more information, please also refer to the following site:

- [Visas for Running the Business On-Site](#) ▶

A residence or settlement permit will be issued by the local immigration office (*Ausländerbehörde*) in Germany. To enter Germany, a national visa is issued for the trip to Germany by the responsible German embassy in the applicant's home country or country of residence. This is then converted into a residence or settlement permit in Germany.

For more information on visa application and issuing, please refer to the following site:

- [Visa Application Process](#) ▶

However, there are exceptions for several countries. Citizens from Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, and the United States may enter and stay in Germany without a national visa (up to 90 days). The application for a residence or settlement permit for the purpose of self-employment or taking up employment can be filed at the local immigration office in Germany.

The German Federal Office (*Auswärtiges Amt*) has detailed information on visa requirements available. Please also refer to the following site:

- [Entry Requirements into Germany for Different Countries](#) ▶



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