

Checklist

Permanent EC Residence

The **Permanent EC Residence** is an unlimited residence title that entitles you to work. It is equivalent to the **settlement permit ('Niederlassungserlaubnis')** and offers you extended possibilities of mobility within and outside the EU (except for Ireland and Denmark).

Guidance on meeting the requirements (Section 9a (2) Residence Act):

1. You have held a residence permit for at least five years
(except for humanitarian stays; previous periods of study and training are credited at half).
2. You can finance your cost of living independently
3. You have continuous adequate health insurance coverage
4. You have proof of adequate retirement provision (At least 60 months compulsory contributions to the statutory pension insurance or similar benefits)
5. You have no criminal record
6. If you are employed, you have the necessary permit
7. You have [sufficient knowledge of German](#) (B1)
8. You have basic knowledge of the legal and social order in Germany
9. You have sufficient living space for yourself and family members

Required documentation for the application:

- Valid national passport
- Proof of sufficient pension provision
 - pension information or pension statement from the German Pension Insurance or
 - proof of entitlement to comparable benefits from another insurance or pension institution
- German language skills
 - language certificate from a certified language course provider (*telc, Goethe Institut, ECL, ÖSD*)
 - certificates from an integration course (if applicable)
- Knowledge of the legal and social order
 - Successful completion of the test "Living in Germany" or graduation certificate of a general education school in Germany
- Proof of continuous adequate health and long-term care insurance coverage for all family members:
 - in case of a statutory health insurance: current insurance certificate
 - in case of private health insurance: confirmation of Annex 1 by the health insurance company* and proof of private long-term care insurance
- Rental contract with details of the size of the apartment and current statement of operating costs
- Proof of income:
 - Employment contract, certificates of earnings for the last **twelve months** (in the case of a change of employers or mini-jobs; certificates of earnings of the last eighteen months)
 - Freelance activity: current profit calculation by tax consultant: form Information on gross/net income* ('Auskunft über Brutto/ Netto Einkommen') and engagements/contracts with several clients (if applicable)
- Certificate in Tax matters (*Bescheinigung in Steuersachen*): to be applied for at the tax office

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- German university degree (if applicable)
- Current biometric photo (must only be presented at the appointment)**

*See Form on www.hamburg.com/welcome/forms/

** You can have your photo taken at a booth on site for a fee of 6 euros.

Please allow 15 minutes prior to your appointment for this.

Additional documents may be requested. The application is subject to a fee. Payment only in cash or with EC card. Credit card payment is not possible.

Application

Please use the [online service "Residence Permit Hamburg"](#) to apply for your residence permit.

