

Checkliste

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 Great Britain, 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:

- Completed and signed application form Residence Permit*.
- 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 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 5 by the health insurance company*
- Rental contract with details of the size of the apartment and current statement of operating costs

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- 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)
- German university degree (if applicable)
- Current biometric photo (no copies)**

Please do not staple or clip documents. 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.

Information for the application:

To apply for a residence permit, please contact the Immigration Office of the Hamburg District Offices responsible for your place of residence or the Hamburg Welcome Center for Professionals.

To determine the responsible district office, proceed as follows:

1. Call up the Hamburg Administration Guide (Behördenfinder):
www.hamburg.de/behoerdenfinder
2. In the "Suchbegriff" field, enter the term "Ausländerangelegenheiten" and select "Suchen"
3. Enter the registration address in Hamburg (street and house number)
4. Select the red button "Weiter"

The Hamburg Administration Guide will show you the relevant department's contact details and opening hours.

To have your application processed at the Hamburg Welcome Center for Professionals, please make an appointment via e-mail: professionals@welcome.hamburg.de.