Visa Application Information

as of October 2026

This guide provides essential information to help you successfully apply for your visa. Each German embassy or consulate website provides specific document checklists in your local language, along with details about the application process, appointment booking, and whether to apply directly at the embassy or through an external service provider. Further information can be found on The German Federal Foreign Office website.

1. What You Need to Do

1.1. Find the Correct Embassy

You must apply at the German embassy or consulate in your country of residence. If there are multiple German missions in your country, check the embassy website to find which one covers your region.

1.2. Book Your Appointment Immediately

As soon as you decide to attend Berlinale, book an appointment at the German embassy or consulate website or the website of the service provider that works officially with the German mission in your country. You can book before you have all your documents ready. The official letter from Berlinale does not need to be ready yet when you book your appointment.

You need a **valid passport** to apply for a visa. If your passport is expired when booking your appointment, enter your old passport number.

If appointments are fully booked: Book the next available later appointment, then contact the embassy (not the service provider) via email with your registration number. Reference Berlinale and request an earlier appointment.

If no appointments are available: Contact the embassy (not the service provider) directly via the contact form or, if available, by email, requesting an appointment. Some embassies use waiting lists – register on these lists and contact the embassy if you have not received an appointment 6 weeks before Berlinale.

1.3. Check the Document Checklist

Visit the embassy website to find the complete list of required documents. The website is usually available in your local language. Make sure you provide all required documents when you submit your application.

Applicants should be prepared to provide proof of sufficient financial means for the trip, as well as documentation demonstrating their economic and family ties to their country of residence.

1.4. Complete the Visa Application Form

Use the online Videx form at videx.diplo.de to fill out your application. The link is also available on the embassy website.

1.5. Enter Your Travel Dates Correctly

In your application, enter the dates you will enter and leave the Schengen area (not just the festival dates). If you plan to stay longer than the festival dates, you must provide proof of the purpose and financing for your additional stay.
Before you travel, check if the visa is issued for the correct days and time period.

1.6. Travel Insurance

You need travel health insurance that covers your entire trip. Berlinale provides this insurance only for invited guests for the festival duration. If applicable, the information is marked on your official Berlinale confirmation of participation.

2. How Long Does It Take?

Visa processing normally takes up to 15 calendar days after you submit your complete application. In some cases, it may take up to 45 days. For guests from Guinea, Somalia, Russia and The Gambia, processing takes in general 45 days.

Important: This does not include the waiting time for your appointment. Appointment waiting times vary by location and can be several weeks or months. Apply as early as possible.

3. Important Reminders

Submit complete applications only. Incomplete applications may be rejected. If the embassy is not responsible for your region, your application will be rejected. Check the embassy website carefully before applying.

For detailed requirements and appointments, visit your local German embassy or consulate website.

4. Recommendation for Entry into Germany

When crossing the border, you should carry at least the following application documents with you:

- confirmation of Berlinale participation
- proof of coverage of travel expenses (e.g. hotel confirmation)