



Generalkonsulat
der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
Kanton

Consulate General
of the Federal Republic of Germany

Updated: November 2006

19/F, Guangdong International Hotel
339 Huanshi Dong Road
Guangzhou 510098
Tel.: (+86-20) 8330 6533
Fax: (+86-20) 8331 2959
E-Mail: rk-10@kant.diplo.de
Homepage: www.kanton.diplo.de

Visa for Family Reunion

Foreigners who wish to join their spouse or family in Germany require a visa prior to departure.

Please note that short term visa for visiting purposes cannot be converted into residence permits after arrival in Germany.

The following **documents** have to be submitted when applying for the visa:

1. Three duly filled and signed application forms (Application for Residence Permit/ Antrag auf Erteilung einer Aufenthaltserlaubnis) with 4 recent photographs (3,5 x 4,5cm, white background, see information on photographs) accompanied by signed declaration that the information given is true and complete (section 55 of German Residence Act).
2. Valid passport.
3. Marriage certificate (for spouses), birth certificate (for children) or other proof of relationship, notarized and legalized. As well as the Chinese document that gave reason for issuing the certified document (red wedding book/birth certificate issued at the hospital).
For use in Germany the certified copy of the Chinese wedding book/birth certificate, issued at the hospital, will not be sufficient. Real marriage/birth certificates have to be issued at the Chinese notary public, with applicant's photo.
4. Copy of the passport of spouse/family residing in Germany, together with valid residence permit, if not German citizens.
5. Proof of health insurance valid at least 90 days after entering Germany (not applicable for family members of German citizens or spouses/children of EU- or EEA citizens). As the time of the visa approval is not definite, applicants are recommended to arrange that the date of the insurance is flexible and valid after entering only.
6. For minors under 18: a visa application of minors under 16 has to be signed by their parents/custodian. Applicants older than 16 may sign themselves.
Moreover for minors under 18 proof of custody has to be presented notarized and legalized (e.g. birth certificate), as well as the consent of both parents for the travel to Germany, either with statement and signature on the visa application at the visa counter of the Consulate General or with a notarized statement. Does one parent only have the custody further proof has to be presented (judgement, divorce decree, notarized statement of both parents).
In China custody has to be proven as 抚养 and 监护. In the case upbringing 抚养 has been decided only, further proof of guardianship 监护 has to be shown, issued by an institution responsible for custody (court, civil administration, notary public).
7. Additional documents may be requested either by the Consulate General or by the authorities in Germany.

All documents have to be presented in the **original** and with **2 copies**.

All documents have to be presented with a **translation** into German or English.

The Consulate General legalizes Chinese documents, which are notarized and certified by the Foreign Affairs Offices of Guangdong, Guangxi, Fujian or Hainan. **Legalisation** of these documents is possible when applying for the visa. A legalisation fee is incurred.

Visa applications can be submitted after scheduling an **appointment**. As from 1st December 2006, appointments will have to be arranged through the **Visa Application Centre**. www.germanvac-cn.com The arrangement of an appointment is highly recommended: applicants with appointment are received with priority. Without appointment there is no guarantee for submitting the visa application at the Consulate General.

At the Visa Application Centre you can have your documents pre-checked and get general information in visa matters, either in person or by sending an authorized third person. This service is useful, as only complete applications can be processed. The Visa Application Centre is not in a position to refuse visa applications

The decision whether to grant a visa lies solely in the competence of the Visa Section of the Consulate General.

Visa applicants will be asked to come to the Consulate General for **interviewing**. Please be there on time 15 minutes before the scheduled appointment. Applicants not showing up on time will not be able to hand in their applications and will have to arrange for a new appointment. Changes of the appointment date should be notified to the Visa Application Centre in due time; a new appointment date may be arranged free of charge if notified at least two days prior to the interview.

The **visa fee** is **30,- EUR** (15,- EUR for minors).

(Spouses of German citizens and parents of German children, as well as spouses/children of EU- or EEA citizens are free of charge.)

The fee has to be paid in equivalent Renminbi Yuan when handing in the application in the German Consulate General, according to the relevant exchange rate.

An **additional service fee of 190,- RMB** has to be paid by every applicant in the Visa Application Centre.

Application forms and information leaflets are free of charge – www.kanton.diplo.de

Processing time: 2 to 3 months. Enquiries within this period of time cannot be answered.

Passports will be handed back to the applicants via the Visa Application Centre after the Visa Section of the Consulate General has decided on the visa.

Applicants are asked to check their visa (esp. validity dates, typing of name, photo) on receipt.

The visa is issued with a validity of 90 days and has to be extended at the local Immigration Office in Germany.

Regional competence of German missions in China:

The Federal Republic of Germany has several missions in the Peoples' Republic of China. Each of them has a clearly defined region for visa issue:

- Persons residing or having their normal abode in the provinces of Guangdong, Fujian, Hainan and the Autonomous Region of the Zhuang-Nationality Guangxi have to hand in their visa application with the **German Consulate General Kanton**.
- Persons residing or having their normal abode in the provinces of Anhui, Jiangsu, Zhejiang und the city of Shanghai have to hand in their visa application at the Consular and Visa section of the **German Consulate General Shanghai**, New Century Plaza, 14/F, 188 Wu Jiang Road, Shanghai 200041, phone: (021) 6217 1520, fax: (021) 6218 0004, www.shanghai.diplo.de.
- Persons residing or having their normal abode in any other province will have to apply for their visa at the **German Embassy Peking**, 17 Dongzhimenwai Dajie, Peking 100600, phone: (010) 8532 9000, fax: (010) 6532 3557, www.peking.diplo.de.
- Persons residing or having their normal abode in Hongkong and Macao will have to apply for a visa at the **German Consulate General Hongkong**, United Centre, 21/F, 95 Queensway-Central, Hongkong, phone: (00852) 2105 8777, fax (00852) 2105 8788, www.hongkong.diplo.de.
- The **German Consulate General Chengdu** is **not issuing any visa for the time being**.

As a rule the **normal abode** is defined as the place a person is living in and working at. This is the case if a person has been living at that place for the past six months or is expected to stay at that place for long-term. If the normal abode is not in agreement with the Household Register (Hukou) or place of issue of the passport, the applicant is asked to present proof of his normal abode (ID card 暂住证, working contract, police confirmation).