

3: Scheduling Interview



Once USCIS has approved your I-130 petition, the Immigrant Visa Unit will contact you, provide instructions on scheduling a medical exam, and ask you to send all required documents and forms. Once we receive everything we need, we will schedule an interview at the Frankfurt Consulate. We can usually schedule the interview within a few weeks. For further details, please refer to our website:

<http://germany.usembassy.gov/visa/iv/apply/>.



4: The Immigrant Visa Interview



On the day of your interview you will need to pay the immigrant visa fee (\$230). At the interview, an officer will review the file to verify that you qualify for the visa. If everything is in order and the visa is approved, you can expect to receive it within 10 days. Review the instructions at

<http://germany.usembassy.gov/visa/iv/step7/> before the appointment day.

Do not make any travel plans, or submit a postal change of address, until you receive the visa. Immigrant visas are normally valid for six months.

Complete detailed step-by-step instructions on the entire immigrant visa process can be found on our website: <http://germany.usembassy.gov/visa/iv/apply/>.

Applying For An Immigrant Visa



Consular Section
U.S. Consulate General
Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Welcome!

Obtaining an immigrant visa is a **two part process**, involving two separate federal agencies:

- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), an agency of the Department of Homeland Security, is responsible for adjudicating immigrant petitions.
- The Department of State, through the Consular Section, is responsible for actually issuing immigrant visas.

We have designed this brochure to explain the basic steps in the immigration visa process, for those filing their petitions with USCIS in Frankfurt. But you should read the more detailed guidance on our website, at <http://germany.usembassy.gov/visa/iv/>.

We will do our best to process your immigrant visa case quickly, but the process can be lengthy. We therefore suggest that you file at least six months before you plan to leave Germany. **DOD Personnel: Do not wait until your PCS/ETS orders are cut.**

Typical Immigrant Visa Timeline: 6 months

- File petition with USCIS
- USCIS normally sends approved petition to Consular Section in 90 days
- Consular Section contact applicant with instructions within 1 week
- Applicant undergoes medical exam
- Applicant sends required forms and documents to Consular Section
- Consular Section schedules interview appointment within 3 weeks
- Applicant normally receives visa 10 days after interview

1: File Petition with USCIS



You've just completed the first step in the process of obtaining an immigrant visa for your relative – submitting an I-130 Petition to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS). USCIS, which is part of the Department of Homeland Security, is now reviewing your Petition. On average, this process will take approximately ninety days.

2: Wait for Petition Approval (but there are things you can do while you wait)



The Immigrant Visa Unit will contact you when your petition is approved. In the meantime, you can begin to assemble the documents required for the immigrant visa.



Give yourself plenty of time for this step; getting these documents, especially from abroad, can be time-consuming. Please note that these documents pertain to the person receiving the visa.

Passports

Birth Certificates

Police Certificates

Court and Prison Records

Military Records

Photographs

Evidence of Support

Marriage, Divorce & Death

Certificates

Custody Statement

Translations

Prepaid DHL Label

You can find a detailed description of these documents at: http://photos.state.gov/libraries/frankfurt/9318/consular_pdf/Instructions%20for%20Immigrant%20Visa%20Applicants.pdf.

IMPORTANT: DO NOT submit these forms until the Immigrant Visa Unit instructs you to do so.