

Information about the effects of the current travel restrictions for national visa applications of non-Turkish citizens in Turkey (as of 28.04.2021)

Update 28.04.2021:

Due to the current Covid 19 pandemic the Turkish government has decided to introduce additional measures to stop the spread of the Corona virus, including a general lockdown for the period from Friday, 29 April 2021 7 pm to Monday, 17 May 2021 5 am.

The visa offices of the **German Embassy Ankara** and of the **Consulate General in Izmir** remain open and will continue to provide appointments. For questions regarding permits for travel to the visa offices, please contact the relevant Turkish authorities directly at 199. The Embassy and the Consulate General do not provide any information in this regard.

The appointments in the visa sections of the **Consulate General Istanbul** are cancelled due to the lockdown. Applicants will receive a new appointment as soon as possible and will be informed directly about the new date. Please wait for this information and do not contact us in the meantime. A new registration with iDATA or IOM is NOT necessary.

The visa section will keep up emergency operations only for very urgent visa applications limited to:

- re-entry applications after loss or theft of German residence permits during short-term stays
- Urgent medical treatment for life-threatening injuries / sicknesses
- Applications for family reunion by parents to a child with protection status in Germany that will turn 18 in the next 3 months

If you think that your case falls under one of these categories, please contact us with a detailed explanation: visa-ds@ista.auswaertiges-amt.de

Please note that the visa section cannot obtain travel permits for applicants from the Turkish authorities, please contact the relevant Turkish authorities directly at 199.

We ask for your understanding that in general and especially during the lockdown period individual inquiries concerning information already available on this website cannot be answered and that processing of all other inquiries may take longer than usual. Please check the information on this website regularly for updates.

Travel restrictions for travel from third countries, impact on visa procedures

According to a decision by the German Federal Government on July, 1st 2020 due to the suggestions by the European Council from June, 30th 2020 the travel restrictions remain in force for travel from Turkey for the time being. They are however reviewed on a regular basis.

The visa process is therefore currently restricted.

Exempt from the travel ban are:

- Work visa for health care purposes (like doctors, nurses, scientists in important medical fields)
- Diplomats, staff of International Organizations, military staff, development /

- humanitarian aid staff (if on an official mission)
- If extreme humanitarian or similar circumstances apply

Effective July 2nd 2020 however, broader exemptions from the travel ban have been put into place.

Further exemptions from the travel ban include:

- Citizens of the European Union member states, third state nationals with a right of residence in the European union and their close family members (if travelling to reunite with their family)
- Family reunification to close relatives living in Germany
- Third-state nationals travelling for study purposes or intensive language classes
- Most categories of employment visa
- Self-employed persons
- Training / qualification measures such as vocational training or qualification measures necessary for the recognition of a foreign degree in Germany

Only in these cases, appointments for visa can be booked, applications processed and – if possible – visas issued.

For the third-state visa section Istanbul appointments can be booked in these cases via iDATA under 0 850 460 8493.

Please note that the Embassy in Ankara is temporarily making appointments only upon request at the following e-mail address: visa-drittstaater@anka.auswaertiges-amt.de
Please attach your passport and Turkish residence permit to your appointment request.

Other applications cannot be accepted at the moment. Please be aware that due to the corona situation the visa sections are still operating with a reduced capacity. We can therefore offer only limited capacities for new appointments for the time being. You can however register with iDATA.

Please refer to the information on our general information sheet to learn more about applying for a national visa as non-Turkish citizen in Turkey:

<https://tuerkei.diplo.de/tr-de/service/05-VisaEinreise/-/2170670>

- Syrian nationals can also continue to use the iDATA website for family reunion of Syrian nationals for registration.
- The same applies to the website of the Federal Foreign Office for the registration for family reunification to holders of subsidiary protection.
- Please note that only registration is possible. Appointments will be given according to capacity.

Information on pending visa applications

Pending visa applications will be further processed. However, visas may only be issued (if the above mentioned exemption rules do not apply) after the travel restrictions on remaining categories has been lifted. This also applies to national visas (category D) approved by the Alien authority in Germany (unless one of the above-mentioned exemptions applies).

We kindly ask for your understanding that inquiries if the visa can be granted directly cannot

be answered due to legal reasons. The visa sections are obliged to grant a visa only if all legal requirements are fulfilled on the day of approval of the visa. This means that after the travel restrictions for a certain visa category have been lifted, the visa sections will have to check the pending applications if the visa can be granted directly or if further documents are necessary or if the alien authority in Germany has to be contacted again.

Due to the high amount of pending applications, delays are possible.

Therefore, we ask all applicants to refrain from buying a flight ticket before receipt of the necessary visa. Please note that a booked flight does neither entitle you to receive a visa nor to an accelerated visa processing.

Information on entry regulations to Germany

Please be aware that due to the corona situation travel restrictions can be reimposed/reinforced at all times depending on the situational development.

The decision on entry at the EU external border (and, if applicable, the respective internal borders on the route to Germany) is made exclusively by the respective border authorities.

This also applies for holders of a valid visa granted by the German missions abroad.

Please check the current travel restrictions before booking a flight. The visa section cannot overrule a negative decision of the border authority nor can the visa section issue any “certificates” or “travel passes”.

From 8 November 2020 on all travelers to Germany have to register online prior to their entry on the website www.einreiseanmeldung.de if they have stayed in a risk area within the last 20 days prior to their entry to Germany. Also, they must be able to present proof of this registration when entering Germany.

Travellers entering Germany from third countries such as Turkey should keep themselves informed about the entry and quarantine regulations in place at the time of their travel.

You can find a short summary of all measures on a leaflet for travelers on the website of the Federal Ministry of Health in German and English here:

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/coronavirus-infos-reisende/info-sheet.html>

For detailed information, please check the website of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community:

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/faqs/EN/topics/civil-protection/coronavirus/coronavirus-faqs.html>

Please also consult the regulations of the Federal State you will be travelling to.

Please check the availability of flights between Turkey and Germany as well as the current regulations of the Turkish authorities regarding exiting Turkey.

Requirement to provide proof of A1 level German language skills for family reunion with a spouse in Germany

It is generally necessary to provide proof of basic German language skills (level A1) in order to receive a visa for reuniting with a spouse in Germany. This requirement also remains in the current pandemic situation.

The German law states the following exceptions:

a) Exceptions based in the applicant him- / herself:

- obvious proficiency in German (= clearly recognizable at the counter)
- university graduates with a positive employment and integration prognosis
- if the stay in Germany will be only temporary
- if the applicant has lived in Germany before with a permanent residence permit
- if the applicant is permanently unable to learn a second language due to a physical, mental or psychological illness or disability

b) Exceptions based in the family member in Germany:

- if the spouse in Germany has a certain citizenship of an EU / EWR member state except Germany or one of the countries listed in section 41 of the German “Aufenthaltsverordnung”
- if the spouse has a Blue Card EU, an ICT card or a visa or residence permit as a researcher
- if the spouse has a visa or residence permit as a skilled worker or self-employed person and the marriage was contracted before he / she went to Germany
- if the spouse has a protection status (refugee or subsidiary protection) and the marriage was contracted before he / she went to Germany

It also constitutes an exception if special circumstances of the individual case make it impossible or unreasonable for the applicant to try and learn basic German skills before entering Germany.

This is for example the case if language classes and tests are not offered **permanently** or come with a high security risk and if other promising options like distance learning are not available.

If you think that one of these exceptions applies to you, you will need to prove the relevant exception when filing your application, i.e. with your spouse’s German residence permit, a current medical certificate or other suitable proof.

The visa section will take into account the current pandemic situation. A decision can only be taken after your application has been submitted.