

Information about the effects of the current travel restrictions for national visa applications of non-Turkish citizens in Turkey (as of 14.09.2020)

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)
- Third-state nationals travelling for study purposes (if the studies cannot entirely be participated in from abroad)
- Certain categories of skilled labour employees
- 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 again in these cases via iDATA under 0 850 460 8493 **as soon as July 27th2020**

Other applications cannot be accepted at the moment

Please be aware that due to the corona situation the visa sections are operating with a reduced capacity and that cancelled appointments have to be rescheduled as well. 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.

Impact on cancelled visa appointments

Appointments for national visa applications (category D) booked before and then cancelled due to the travel restrictions will be re-assigned starting 01.07.2020 first in certain visa categories:

- Family reunification,
- Student visas, but not language course without studies
- Work visa for skilled workers (among others Researchers, Blue card, IT-specialists, Executive personnel)

Please ensure that you can be contacted under the contact details given in the original appointment booking and that you have updated application documents. You will be contacted by iDATA, IOM or the respective Visa section directly. If you are no more interested in an appointment, please inform iDATA. Please refrain from contacting us but wait for our approach

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.

Procedure of renewal of unused visas due to Corona travel restrictions

National visas (category D) issued shortly before the travel restrictions, which cannot be used within the period of validity due to the Corona travel restrictions, will be reissued under the condition that the purpose of travel and the destination have not changed according to the following procedure:

1. Prerequisites:

- You possess a **national visa** (Category D, for example Family reunification, study purposes, Reentry, skilled labor job visa) **issued by us**, not a Schengen Visa, category C
- Your visa has been valid after March, 15th, 2020, the visa has **expired until July, 29th 2020**
- You were **not able to use the visa** due to the travel ban or cancelled travel connections
- Your **Residence purpose** and intended **Place of residence** in Germany have **not**

changed

2. If all of these requirements are met, your visa can generally be reissued in a simplified procedure. In order to start the procedure you have to contact the visa section that originally granted your visa until **December, 31st 2020.**

Therefore send an e-Mail to that Visa section.

For non-Turkish citizen that hold an original national visa from Istanbul, please contact:

Visa-ds-renewal@ista.diplo.de

For visas from other visa sections in Turkey, please contact these under these addresses:

German Embassy Ankara: visaneu@anka.diplo.de

German Consulate General Izmir: visa@izmi.diplo.de

3. Content of the E-Mail:

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

I hereby ask for the renewal of my visa that I could not use to travel to Germany due to the corona travel restrictions.

Name:

First Name:

Date of Birth:

Travel Purpose:

(e.g. Family reunification, study purposes, work visa, reentry visa, humanitarian admission)

Passport number:

Number of visa file (if known):

Yours sincerely

Your E-Mail needs to contain the following attachments:

- A scan of your original visa
- If you applied for a visa for study purposes:
 - o a confirmation by the university when you can start your studies
 - o if you have a scholarship: confirmation, that the scholarship is still valid
 - o current proof of health insurance
- If you applied for a language course:
 - o Updated language course confirmation
 - o current proof of health insurance
- If you applied for a visa as a researcher:
 - o Updated admission agreement by the research institution
 - o current proof of health insurance

4. Further procedure

You will be informed by the visa section whether further documents are needed or whether the visa can already be issued. Generally it is not necessary to appear at the visa section in person. If the documents are complete the visa section will ask you to hand in your passport, issue the visa and hand the passport back to you.

The renewal procedure is free of charge.

Please note:

If you do not fulfill the criteria mentioned under 1. renewal is not possible. You will then have to post a new visa application.

Please do not send your passport unrequested.

The procedure will take some time due to the circumstances, please refrain from request for information during that time.

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. Neither can the visa section overrule a negative decision of the border authority nor can the visa section issue any “certificates” or “travel passes”.

Travellers entering Germany from third countries such as Turkey should keep themselves informed about the valid quarantine regulations. 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>

You can find 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>

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

General information on processing of inquiries

We ask for your understanding that due to limited capacities, 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.