

3: Scheduling Interview



Once USCIS has approved your I-130 petition, the Immigrant Visa Unit will contact you, provide instructions on scheduling the medical examination, and request that you to send in all required documents and forms. Once the Immigrant Visa Unit receives all the needed documents, they will advise you of the next steps to take, which includes scheduling your own appointments for the medical examination and visa interview. For further details, please refer to our website.



4: The Immigrant Visa Interview



On the day of your interview you will need to pay the immigrant visa fee (please see website for current amount). At the interview, the consular 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 on our website before the appointment day. Do not make any travel plans, or submit a postal change of address, until you receive the visa. Immigrant visas can be valid for up to 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-
application/](http://germany.usembassy.gov/visa-application/)

Applying For An Immigrant Visa



**USCIS and 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), is responsible for adjudicating the “Petition for Alien Relative.”
- 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 immigrant 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 Frankfurt
- USCIS normally sends approved petition to Consular Section in 60 days
- Consular Section contacts applicant with instructions within 1 week
- Applicant sends required forms and documents to Consular Section
- Applicant schedules appointment for medical examination
- Applicant schedules appointment for visa interview
- Applicant normally receives visa within 10 days after interview

1: File Petition with USCIS at least 6 months before departure



The first step of the process of obtaining an immigrant visa for your relative is to complete and submit the USCIS Form I-130, the fee, and accompanying forms and documents, to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Field Office in Frankfurt. You can get the form, a checklist and instructions online at:

<http://germany.usembassy.gov/visa/uscis/i130/>.

USCIS reviews and makes a decision on your petition within 60 days, if everything is in order. Upon approval the petition will be transferred to the Department of State for Immigrant Visa Processing.

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.

Passport
Birth Certificate
Police Certificates
Court and Prison Records
Military Records
Photographs
Evidence of Support
Marriage, Divorce & Death Certificates
Translations

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