



April 2011

Applications for Schengen Business Visa

Dear Applicant,

thank you very much for your interest in visiting the Federal Republic of Germany on a Schengen Business Visa. The following information is meant to explain the process for the appropriate visa application.

A Schengen Visa entitles the holder to an accumulated **stay of up to 90 days within a period of six months for business purposes** and is valid for **Germany, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland (Schengen Area)**. The implementation of the Schengen Convention constitutes a major progress towards the free movement of persons. Travellers and residents of the member states have access to the Schengen Area with a single visa or residence permit. The abolition of the internal borders of the Schengen States, however, warrants strict control at the external borders of the Schengen Area.

Please submit your application for a Schengen Visa to the Embassy/Consulate of the country which - considering the length of your intended stay - is your **main destination** among the countries listed above. If no such main destination can be ascertained, please contact the Embassy/Consulate of the country of your **first entry** into the Schengen Area.

If your main destination is Germany **and** you are residing in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu or Pondicherry, you have to submit your visa application to the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Chennai. Please note that the place of issue of your passport is of no relevance in this regard.

The German Consulate General in Chennai will also accept applications for business purposes from travellers with main destination in **Norway, Iceland and Sweden**. For travel with training, scientific or work purposes and for residence permits please contact the Embassies/Consulates of the above mentioned countries directly.

In order to start the application process, please contact any of the German Application Centers in Chennai, Puducherry, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Cochin managed by "VFS Global Services Pvt. Ltd". Please note that you are required to present a complete set of application documents there for a preliminary check.

After the document check an **appointment for the mandatory visa interview** in the German Consulate General in Chennai will be scheduled. **Frequent travellers (a)** holder of at least two Schengen Visas issued within the last 24 months **or b)** holders of Schengen visas with validity of one or more years **and** have used the visas with in the last 24 months) may submit their applications via an Application Center without scheduling an appointment for a visa interview. This option, however, is not available for first time applicants or applicants with a recent reject from any German Mission. Applications may not be submitted by courier, regular post, fax or e-mail. Please refer to the homepage of the German Consulate General at www.chennai.diplo.de for further information.

For its services "VFS Global Services Pvt. Ltd" is charging a service fee of 607 Rupees (incl. taxes) per application. This fee is not related in any way to the visa fee itself.

The German Consulate General requires approximately two working days to process your visa application. In some cases, however, we might need more time due to the necessary involvement of German and/or Schengen authorities. We, therefore, would appreciate it very much, if you could apply for your visa at least 4 weeks prior to your intended date of departure.

The **Visa Fee** for a Business Visa is € 60,-. The visa fee has to be paid in Rupees by **Demand Draft** in the name of the "Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Chennai" on the day of application. The Demand Draft must be payable in Chennai and may not be older than two months. Only Demand Drafts from the Indian Bank, Canara Bank, RBS or Deutsche Bank will be accepted. Demand Drafts with incorrect amounts will not be accepted. Fees cannot be paid in cash. Please refer to the homepage of the German Consulate General at www.chennai.diplo.de in order to find

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0091-44-2434 9495

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visa@chenn.diplo.de
Website:
www.chennai.diplo.de

out the current amount of the visa fee in Rupees. Please note that the visa fee is not refundable, even when the visa is refused.

In order to ensure that your application can be processed without delay, please submit the following general documents:

- valid **Passport** (issued within the last 10 years) with at least 3 months validity after the scheduled return
- **2 Passport Pictures** according to biometric specifications, 1 attached to the application form, 1 loose (For further details regarding biometric specifications of photos please refer to the German Consulate General's homepage at www.chennai.diplo.de)
- **Schengen Visa Application Form** (Please ensure that you signed the form and added your complete Indian address incl. pin code and Tel./Fax/e-mail under your signature.)
- **Declaration on True and Complete Information**, signed and dated
- **Declaration on Travel Health Insurance**, signed and dated
- **Declaration on German Business Contacts**, signed and dated - if applicable
- **your cover letter** with your letterhead mentioning complete personal address, phone/fax numbers and/or e-mail-address as well as describing your exact purpose of stay in the Schengen States (original, no copy);
- **flight reservation**, also indicating travel within the Schengen Area (tickets are not necessary)
- **Travel Health Insurance**, validity has to match travel dates (longer validity is recommended)
- **Copy of your passport's data pages** (A4 sized copy)
- **Demand Draft** for the visa fee

In addition to the above mentioned general documentation, it is mandatory to provide proof that you intend to go on a **genuine business trip** to one or more of the Schengen States, **will not remain** in the Schengen Area **after the visa has expired** and that you have **sufficient funds** for the proposed trip. To demonstrate that these criteria are met, you should provide as much evidence as possible, including the following:

- **history of previous travel** as tourist or business traveller to other countries by submission of older passports
- **letter of your employer** confirming your employment, salary, exact purpose of business travel including an itinerary within the Schengen States as well as coverage of your travel costs (original, no copy)
- if self-employed: official documents about your own business (A4 sized copy)
- **evidence of your employment**, e.g. work contract, salary slips of last 3 months (A4 sized copy)
- **proof of funds of the company**, e.g. bank statements of the previous 3 months (A4 sized copy)
- **Company's Registration Certificate** (A4 sized copy)
- **invitation letter from your German business partner(s)** in German language confirming invitation a. Please note that the invitation letter must be submitted together with your application documents. It is not required to send the invitation letter to the German Consulate General directly as well.
- **Confirmation on the coverage of the costs**. This can be done either by your employer or by the inviting business partner.

If you intend to participate in a **training programme** in Germany, please submit two complete sets of documents and keep in mind that the visa process might take more time due to the necessary involvement of German and/or Schengen authorities.

Please note that the German Consulate General reserves the right to ask for additional documents in single cases.

Besides, the submission of the above mentioned documents does not guarantee the issue of a visa. Submission of an incomplete set of documentation or refusal to attend the mandatory visa interview will lead to a reject of your visa application.

Even though a visa might have been granted, Border Control Authorities at the port of entry reserve the right to deny entry into the Federal Republic of Germany. Once a visa has been issued, the purpose of the trip may not be altered.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Visa Section of the German Consulate General in Chennai!

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