



Central Office for the Immigration of Skilled Workers



The fast-track procedure for skilled workers!

Get started with our support!

What is the fast-track procedure for skilled workers?

The fast-track procedure for skilled workers helps companies to speed up the process of enabling international skilled workers from non-EU countries to enter Germany. The fast-track procedure shortens the recognition and visa procedures considerably. This is particularly advantageous if the skilled worker is urgently needed and would have to wait a long time for a visa appointment in their country of origin.

The aim of the fast-track procedure for skilled workers is to optimize the steps in the process of issuing a visa for the skilled worker by having the foreigners' authority provide tailored consulting for the companies and targeted, consolidated preparation of the procedure.

Who are we?

The Central Office for the Immigration of Skilled Workers (Zentrale Stelle für die Einwanderung von Fachkräften – ZSEF) is part of the district government of Middle Franconia and specializes in implementing fast-track procedures for skilled workers.

The ZSEF is the competence center for all of Bavaria and the central point of contact for the fast-track procedure for skilled workers. We advise and support employers and skilled workers with regard to the application process and guide them through the procedures.

We optimize the steps required for the skilled worker's entry into the country and submit all required applications to the competent authorities and administrative bodies. In this way, we speed up the overall processes.

What benefits do we offer?

As the office responsible for fast-track procedures for skilled workers for all of Bavaria, we ensure uniform, fast decisions. This is particularly advantageous for companies with multiple locations in Bavaria.

Working together with our Coordination and Consultation Centre for Professional Recognition (Koordinierungs- und Beratungsstelle Berufsanerkennung – KuBB), the ZSEF provides client-friendly, bespoke consulting services regarding issues related to laws on residence and recognition of professional qualifications.

We answer questions such as the following:

Who can benefit from the fast-track procedure for skilled workers?

What are the costs?

How does the procedure work?

How long does the procedure take?

What documents are required?

Can the skilled worker's family enter the country with the skilled worker?

Is the skilled worker allowed to work in my company during a qualification measure?

An overview of the fast-track procedure for skilled workers

1. Consulting on recognition procedure

Prior to initiation of the fast-track procedure for skilled workers, we recommend a consultation on recognition of the skilled worker's professional qualifications.

2. Authorisation of employer

The foreign skilled worker grants the employer power of attorney to initiate the fast-track procedure for skilled workers.

3. Conclusion of an agreement between employer and ZSEF

The employer concludes an agreement with the ZSEF to implement the fast-track procedure for skilled workers.

4. Recognition of foreign qualifications

The ZSEF initiates the relevant procedure with the authority responsible for recognition.

5. Federal Employment Agency's approval procedure

The ZSEF initiates the approval procedure with the Federal Employment Agency as necessary.

6. Preliminary approval of visa issuance

If all the requirements have been met, the ZSEF issues what is known as preliminary approval of visa issuance.

7. Applying for a visa with German diplomatic mission abroad

The skilled worker books an appointment with the German diplomatic mission abroad to apply for the visa. An appointment will be arranged within three weeks.

8. Issuance of a visa

After the visa application is completed during the scheduled appointment, a decision on the application is made within three weeks.

Range of services offered by the ZSEF

Consulting on fast-track procedure for skilled workers

Consulting doesn't have to wait until the agreement is signed. Even prior to the agreement, we help clarify issues such as the following, free of charge:

- Whether implementation of the fast-track procedure for skilled workers is recommended in view of the foreigner's qualifications or for other reasons
- Which language skills the skilled worker must prove
- Which limits must be observed with regard to wages or salary

If necessary, we will suggest potential alternatives.

Coordination of procedures

The ZSEF is the central procedural facilitator and acts as a hub among the agencies involved, particularly

- the authority responsible for recognition of foreign qualifications,
- the Federal Employment Agency and/or
- the diplomatic mission abroad.

The ZSEF

- initiates and coordinates each of the procedures,
- handles any unresolved issues or questions from the agencies involved,
- looks for solutions or alternative courses of action and/or
- keeps track of any procedural deadlines for completion.

Review activities

The ZSEF reviews, among other things, whether the requirements for visa issuance are met, including

- secure means of subsistence,
- provision for old age,
- proof of the required language skills,
- sufficient living space.

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