



Visa regulations

1. As the host of the 2006 World Cup, the Federal Republic of Germany is delighted about the football fans from all around the world who want to experience this major event whether as spectators in the stadia or on screens across Germany. The Federal Foreign Office and the German missions abroad have all made the necessary preparations to provide a fast and service-oriented visa procedure for our guests from all over the world needing a visa to enter Germany. The aim of the Federal Government is to be a good and open host of the 2006 World Cup but at the same time ensure that the World Cup is not used as a pretext for visa abuse. This is in the interest of all.
2. Germany is a member state of the Convention Implementing the Schengen Agreement. Travellers from the other Schengen states (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden) are not checked when entering Germany.
3. Citizens of a further 45 states (including many nations with a footballing tradition) can enter the Schengen states (including Germany) without a visa for a stay of up to three months within a period of six months by presenting a recognized passport or replacement passport document.
4. You can find a list of the countries whose nationals require a visa for short stays here:
[http://www.auswaertiges-
amt.de/www/de/willkommen/einreisebestimmungen/liste_html](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/www/de/willkommen/einreisebestimmungen/liste_html)

The website of the Federal Foreign Office and those of the German foreign missions provide further general information on applying for a visa. You are advised to ask at the German foreign mission responsible for your place of residence which documents have to be presented when applying for a visa. You can find a list of the websites of the missions here:

http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/www/de/adressen_html

The Federal Foreign Office advises all football fans needing a visa to enter Germany to apply to the responsible foreign mission as early as possible. This can even be done before applicants receive their World Cup tickets.

5. German law on foreigners, the Convention Implementing the Schengen Agreement and the Common Consular Instructions (CCI) of the EU partners involved in Schengen lay down the legal framework for the issuing of visas by the foreign missions. These provisions will also have to apply to visas to attend or participate in the World Cup.

No special application procedure is envisaged for visas for those attending a World Cup match or holidaying in Germany during the tournament. All applicants have to appear in person at the mission when applying for a visa. Each visa application has to be examined individually.

A visa can only be issued if the security interests of the Federal Republic of Germany or other Schengen states are not affected. This means that as well as examining the purpose and financing of the visit, there has to be a positive prognosis on the traveller's readiness to return. Only those meeting all these prerequisites can receive a visa.

The presentation of a match ticket for a World Cup game or proof that such a ticket has been bought will be seen as one way of substantiating the purpose of the trip but does not in itself grant the right to a visa.