Limited leave to remain for researchers

First-time applications for a limited leave to remain for researchers have to be submitted in person to the Austrian diplomatic representation in the country of origin, to Municipal Department 35 in Vienna, or to the Austrian research institution (employer).

Required documents:
- 1 current (no older than six months) biometric passport photo (3.5 x 4.5 cm)
- valid passport
- birth certificate
- hosting agreement of a university or comparable certified research institution

The hosting agreement must include the following items pursuant to Art 68 of the Law on Residence and Settlement in Austria:
- the contracting parties
- purpose, duration, extent and funding of the research project
- declaration of liability vis-à-vis all local and regional authorities regarding subsistence expenses and repatriation costs (the liability ends six months after the end of the hosting agreement)

The limited leave to remain for researchers can be issued for a duration of up to two years.
After two years, researchers can change their official purpose of stay in Austria and file an application for a “red-white-red card plus”.

Family members of researchers (spouses, civil partners over 21 years of age, and unmarried minor children) can apply for the residence permit “limited leave to remain – family reunification”.

Holders of this residence permit are exempt from the Employment of Foreign Nationals Act and can take up employment.

Required documents for family members:
- 1 current (no older than six months) biometric passport photo (3.5 x 4.5 cm)
- valid passport
- birth certificate, if applicable also: marriage certificate, civil partnership certificate, divorce decree or certificate proving the solution of a civil partnership, change of name certificate, or adoption certificate
- proof of sufficient means of subsistence of the family (e.g. employment contract)
- proof of regular expenditures, and if applicable loan repayment or seizure in Austria
- proof of health insurance that is valid in Austria and covers all risks (e.g. co-insurance)
- proof of legal entitlement to (adequate) accommodation in Austria (e.g. lease contract)
In some cases it may be necessary to submit additional documents.

Please submit the original and a copy of all documents. Depending on the country of issue the original documents need an apostille or diplomatic certification. Please read our German information sheet “Haager Apostille und Diplomatische Beglaubigungen (The Hague apostille and diplomatic certifications)” for more details or contact our customer service centre. Please submit a certified translation of all documents that were not originally issued in German.

**More information:**

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