# **Federal Republic of Germany**

## **Appointments**

We know how important it is for you to schedule an appointment for your visa application as soon as possible and to receive the subsequent decision. We are aware that the Corona crisis has made your situation and the urgency of your visa application even worse. Families were separated, jobs were lost, planned study trips could not be started and private and professional plans were drastically mixed up. For many people, entry into Germany has therefore become even more important and urgent. However, even months after the outbreak of the pandemic, normality is still a long way off and travel restrictions, quarantine regulations and restrictions on our everyday lives are still or partially in force to contain the pandemic. This applies worldwide, but also especially with regard to the local infection situation for India.

Corona influences naturally also the work of the German General Consulate in Mumbai. We are in a constant balancing act between protecting the health of applicants and our employees on the one hand and maintaining the range of services offered by the visa section on the other. As part of this balancing act, the Consulate provides the largest possible number of appointments in order to keep waiting times as short as possible. Nevertheless, longer waiting times for appointments cannot be avoided despite the best efforts of all consulate staff.

Please contact VFS for an appointment. Kindly be informed that there is a huge demand for visa appointments and VFS is trying its best to accommodate as many applicants as possible and is maintaining a waiting list according to the registration with VFS. Waiting times might therefore apply. We regret to inform you that we cannot grant you a special appointment. Kindly stay in touch with VFS for more assistance.

#### Required documents/Information on the application process

Please refer to our <u>website</u> for all the relevant information incl. checklists mentioning all the required documents. Kindly understand that we cannot guide you individually through the application process.

#### Entry for fully vaccinated travellers

Please be informed that as a fully vaccinated traveller you are eligible to enter Germany regardless of your travel reason. You might therefore schedule an appointment via VFS for any national or Schengen visa without prior approval from the Consulate. Please note that you only count as fully vaccinated if you're meeting all these criteria:

- You must have received the last vaccination dose that is necssary for full vaccination at least 14 days before the travel OR if you do not have a visa already before applying for the visa, in the case of a person who has recovered from coronavirus only one dose is necessary.

- The vaccine must be among those listed on the website of the <u>Paul Ehrlich</u> <u>institute</u>. Please note that Covishield is listed, Covaxin is not. If you're vaccinated with Covaxin, you're therefore not meeting all the criteria.
- The EU Digital COVID Certificate or comparable proof of vaccination (e.g. Indian vaccination certificate) in German, English, French, Italian or Spanish must be presented upon entry. Please check this <u>website</u> ("What rules apply for fully vaccinated people?") for more infomation on the vaccination certificate. Please note that the vaccination certificate must contain your date of birth OR passport number. Reference to Aadhar number is not sufficient.

## Entry for not fully vaccinated travellers

Please note that if you're not fully vaccinated you may only enter Germany if you have an urgent need to travel (please see "What constitutes an urgent need for travel?"). Please note that most of the visa categories (employment, family reunion, students) fall under this category. Please note that not fully vaccinated job seekers still can't apply for a visa due to the ongoing travel restrictions.

Important notice: Please be aware that if you are not fully vaccinated and do not have an urgent need for travel, this constitutes a reason to reject your application.

## Quarantine/Testing regulations in Germany

Please check our <u>website</u> and the website of the <u>Federal Ministry of Health</u> for more information on quarantine and testing regulations when entering Germany. The Consulate is not the competent authority for these enquiries.