



Applying for a National Visa for

Specialty Chef (§19c I Residence Act)

(long term stay for more than 90 days)

Specialty chefs can be issued with a residence permit to work on a full-time basis in specialty restaurants. They must be nationals of the country whose cuisine the restaurant offers. If you can provide proof of qualified vocational training recognised in Germany, you can also apply for a residence permit for a skilled worker with vocational training.

The German Embassy Kuwait is the competent mission for your national visa application if your usual place of residence is Kuwait and your main destination is Germany. Should it become clear that your usual place of residence is outside Kuwait; your visa application cannot be handled by the German Embassy Kuwait.

Applicants whose usual place of residence is Yemen can also apply for a national Visa at the German Embassy Kuwait.

Every applicant needs his/her own appointment and needs to appear in person. Minors have to be accompanied by their custodians.

If you do not speak German, English or Arabic, please be accompanied by an Interpreter to your appointment.

We urgently recommend that you book your appointment yourself. Using “agents” or “advisors” puts you at risk of losing a lot of time and money. Booking an appointment is free of charge.

Documents and certificates are to be provided in German or English. Should your documents be issued in any other language, please provide the original with an official translation into German or English.

Certificates, diplomas, etc. must be presented in the original with apostille/legalisation. Please check the relevant information in regards to the country where the document was issued. The German Embassy Kuwait can only legalise Kuwaiti certificates.

Your original documents will be returned to you after having been checked by the Visa Section.

Missing documentation delays the procedure and can result in your application being rejected.

Forged or falsified documents, will result in an immediate refusal of your visa application and a possible entry ban.

List of required documents:

1. National Visa application form

One duly filled (in English or German) and signed application form. Please use the [VIDEX](#) application form for National visas in order to speed up the application process and to reduce your waiting time.

2. Visa fees

The visa fee for applicants from the age of 18 or older is 75,- Euros, for applicants up to the age of 17 is 37,50- Euros. The fee is to be paid in cash in KWD (according to the current Embassy exchange rate) at the Visa Section when applying.

3. Passport

Valid, non-damaged passport

- signed by the passport holder
- issued within the past 10 years
- minimum of two empty pages

Please provide your original passport as well as any previous passports (if available) together with one copy of the data page.

4. Biometric Photo

One recent (not older than 6 months) biometrical passport photograph with a white background (3.5 cm x 4.5 cm). The photo has to show the facial features from the chin to the hairline as well as the left and right half of the face. Please see the sample chart for passport photos on the website.

5. Proof of residence in Kuwait

Colored copy (front and back) of your valid Kuwaiti Civil ID as well as the Entry Exit report from Kuwait immigration (which can be downloaded in the Sahel App).

6. Curriculum Vitae

Applicant's Curriculum Vitae, showing academic and occupational background.

7. Vocational Training

Original Certificates of completion of foreign vocational culinary training (duration at least two years) and proof of at least two years of practical work as a chef in qualified places of work following vocational training.

If no training is possible in a vocational college in the country of origin – at least six years of work as a chef in qualified places of work in the country of origin including the full name and current telephone number of the employer as well as commercial register/business license.

8. Employer documents from Germany

Original declaration of Employment, filled and signed by the employer

Work contract, signed by the employer and the employee.

Description and Menu of the speciality restaurant in Germany

9. Accommodation

Please provide information on where you are planning on staying. If you did not find an apartment or student accommodation, please provide proof for the first weeks until a permanent residence is found.

10. Health Insurance

If as an employee you are subject to mandatory statutory health insurance, you must bear in mind that this insurance can only begin when you take up residence in Germany and enter into employment. If you enter Germany beforehand, private health insurance must be taken out for the period prior to employment and prior to being eligible for statutory health insurance. In its terms and conditions, travel health insurance can exclude protection if a long-term or permanent stay is planned. So-called incoming travel insurance can also contain such exclusions.

The German Embassy Kuwait reserves the right to ask for additional documents and /or call applicant for an interview at any time.

Valid as of: June 2026

Checklist of documents for Specialty Chefs

- National Visa application form
- Visa fees
- Passport
- Biometric Photo
- Proof of residence in Kuwait
- Curriculum Vitae
- Vocational Training
- Employer documents
- Accommodation
- Health Insurance

Documents and certificates are to be provided in German or English. Should your documents be issued in any other language, please provide the original with an official translation into German or English.