State Recognition in the Country of Training

For some residence titles, your qualifications must be state-recognized in the country of origin. Learn what types of evidence are possible down below.

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What is state recognition in the country of training?

State recognition in the country of training means that your vocational training or degree course is officially recognised in the country in which you completed it. Proof of state recognition in the country where you completed your training is only relevant for third-country nationals and for certain **visa** types or residence permits, e.g. the **opportunity card (points system)**.
For example: you completed vocational training as an electronics technician in Morocco. The certificate states: the Moroccan government officially recognises this qualification.

Important: state recognition in the country of training **is not the same** as formal recognition of the qualification in Germany. The latter is proof that a foreign **non-academic vocational qualification** is equivalent to a German occupation. Check the visa requirements carefully to see exactly which proof of qualification is required. Please also visit the "**Who needs recognition?**" section for more information on this topic.

Do I need proof of state recognition in the country of training?

Citizens of EU and **EFTA** countries do not require state recognition in the country where they completed their vocational training, as they are not subject to visa requirements.

If you come from another country, you needing proof of state recognition in the country of training depends on the visa type you hold.

You will need proof of state recognition in the country of training for the following residence titles:

- the **visa for the recognition partnership**
- the **work visa for qualified professionals** and
- the **opportunity card: points system option**.

For other visas allowing you to work as a **skilled worker**, you do **not** need proof of recognition in the country of training. For visa types such as the **"EU Blue Card**", your qualification must be comparable to a German qualification or recognised in Germany.

The **Quick-Check** helps you find out which visa options are suitable for you.

How do I provide evidence of state recognition in the country of training?

The type of evidence you need depends on the nature of your qualification. A distinction is made between:

- Non-academic vocational qualification (e.g. baker, mechatronics technician, hotel manager) and
- Academic degrees (e.g. Economics, Biology, Political Science)

For non-academic vocational qualifications: Digital Statement on a Foreign Vocational Qualification (DAB)

The **Digital Statement on a Foreign Vocational Qualification (DAB)** serves as proof of the recognition of the non-academic vocational qualification in the country of training. The following requirements are checked during the procedure:

- Your vocational training lasted at least two years on a full-time basis.
- You have successfully completed the vocational training.
- Your non-academic vocational qualification is state-recognised in the country where you where trained.

The DAB can only be applied for in respect of **non-academic vocational qualifications** – regardless of whether the profession is regulated (e.g. registered nurse) or unregulated (e.g. hotel administrator).
The DAB is a fully digital service and is issued by the **Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB)**. Detailed information on the procedure, the required documents and the costs can be found on the **ZAB website**.

For higher education qualifications: the anabin information portal or individual qualification assessment

You can have your higher education qualification assessed through two processes:

1. A positive result on the anabin information portal: proof that your qualification is officially recognised in the country where you studied. As this involves no cost to you, please try this option first.

If you do not receive a result here, or if the result is not positive, please use the second option:

2. Statement of Comparability for foreign academic degrees: an official **Statement of Comparability** for your degree by the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB).

Good to know: unlike the DAB, these two forms of evidence for academic degrees can also demonstrate comparability with a German **academic degree** in a non-regulated profession. This means that they are also suitable, for example, as evidence when applying for an **EU Blue Card** or for employment as **a skilled worker in a non-regulated profession**.

You can find out more about anabin and the Statement of Comparability under **“Evaluation of Foreign Academic Degrees”**.

Information on the web

Federal Office for Migration and Refugees

Hotline on “Recognition of foreign non-academic vocational qualifications”

Recognition of qualifications in Germany

How to have your non-academic vocational qualifications recognised and where to find your local contact centre

Federal Employment Agency

Search for regulated professions in Germany

IHK FOSA (Foreign Skills Approval)

National Centre of Excellence for the recognition and assessment of foreign non-academic vocational qualifications

BQ Portal

Information on foreign non-academic vocational qualifications and on foreign basic and advanced vocational training courses

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