

# Evaluation of Foreign Academic Degrees

Have you successfully finished your academic studies abroad? Find out whether your academic degree meets German standards.

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## Do I need to have my foreign academic degree recognised?

If you hold a foreign **academic degree** and wish to work in a regulated profession (e.g. as a physician or architect) in Germany, recognition of your foreign academic degree is essential. You will find detailed information in the sections “[Who needs recognition?](#)” and “[Recognition procedure](#)”.

If you come from a country outside the EU or **EFTA (third country)** and wish to apply for an [EU Blue Card](#) or a [work visa for qualified professionals](#), you must prove that your foreign academic degree is comparable to a German one. You will also need proof of your qualifications for the [opportunity card](#).

If you wish to work in an unregulated profession (e.g. as a computer scientist or mathematician), you can

provide evidence of your qualifications via the **anabin** information portal or through a **Statement of Comparability**.

## anabin: proof of comparability via the information portal

You can use the anabin information portal to prove that your foreign academic degree is comparable to a German academic degree. The proof consists of two key entries:

- **Higher education institution:** your higher education institution should be rated “H+” in anabin. This means that the institution is recognised in Germany. If the institution is rated “H+/-”, the academic degree must also be listed in the database under that institution.
- **Academic degree:** in addition, your academic degree itself must be classified in the database as “corresponding” (“entspricht”) or “equivalent” (“gleichwertig”) to a German academic degree.

If you find both results to be positive, your foreign academic degree is considered comparable to a German academic degree. You can use the printouts as proof of equivalence for your **visa** application.

The [anabin information portal](#) , operated by the **Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB)**, provides comprehensive information on the assessment of foreign educational qualifications and higher education institutions. It is currently only available in German.

## Explainer video: comparing academic degrees via anabin

## ZAB: how to apply for a Statement of Comparability for your foreign academic degree

Is your higher education institution or your academic degree not listed on the anabin information portal, or has it not been assessed accordingly? If so, you can have your foreign academic degree assessed on a case-by-case basis. The Statement of Comparability is an official document that describes your foreign higher education qualifications and specifies the German qualification to which your foreign qualification is comparable. You can apply for a Statement of Comparability for foreign academic degrees at the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB). The entire process, from application to issuance, is carried out digitally. A Statement of Comparability for foreign academic degrees is required, for example, if your higher education institution is rated “H+” on the anabin information portal but your specific academic degree is not listed.

**Important:** You will only receive a Statement of Comparability if you have successfully completed your degree programme. The ZAB does not issue Statements of Comparability for individual academic achievements or for studies that have not been completed.

Detailed information on the evaluation procedure, the required documents, the costs and who is eligible to apply for a Statement of Comparability can be found on the [ZAB website](#) .

## Statement of Comparability: how is my qualification classified?

The ZAB classifies foreign qualifications at a level within the German system: Bachelor's, Master's or **Doctorate**. The Bachelor's degree is the first level and generally takes three to four years to complete in Germany.

Foreign academic degrees at the first cycle usually correspond to a German Bachelor's degree. In some countries, however, this first cycle is shorter or less comprehensive than in Germany. The ZAB classifies such degrees as "partial German Bachelor's degree programme".

**Important:** the classification "partial German Bachelor's degree programme" is not the same as "partial recognition". "Partial recognition" can only be established as part of a **recognition procedure** with a **recognition notice**.



### Practical tip: allow enough time for the Statement of Comparability process

Please note that the processing time for the Statement of Comparability may take up to three months, provided you have submitted all the necessary documents in full. If you are applying for a Statement of Comparability for foreign academic degrees in order to obtain an [EU Blue Card](#), the processing time is usually only two weeks. To do this, please state in the online application that you require the Statement of Comparability for the EU Blue Card and attach a copy of your current German employment contract or your written job offer.

The processing time only begins once the ZAB has received all the documents in full and the fee has been credited to its account.

## 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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