Visa for a Recognition Partnership

Within a recognition partnership, you can complete the recognition procedure with the support of your employer after entering Germany and start working at the same time.

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What is the recognition partnership?

The recognition partnership is a **visa** or **residence permit** for the purpose of the recognition (**Section 16d (3) of the Residence Act [AufenthG]**) of your foreign qualification. It gives you the opportunity to have the **recognition procedure** carried out after you have entered Germany and to work in your profession at the same time.

You can find out whether you need a visa to enter Germany in the section "**How do I apply for a visa?**".

Requirements for the visa for the recognition partnership

- **Qualification**: You have a foreign academic or **non-academic vocational qualification** requiring at least two years of full-time training. Your academic or non-academic vocational qualification must be recognised by the government of the country in which you obtained it. For your visa application, you need evidence of positive information regarding your **non-academic vocational qualification** or a digital **Statement of Comparability** regarding your academic qualification. You can submit an application to the **Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB)** to receive either of those documents. Alternatively, you can also use the positive evaluation of the degree on the **anabin information portal** for **university** degrees.
- **Concrete job offer**: You have a concrete job offer from an employer in Germany. It will usually be **qualified employment**. This means that you will need an academic qualification or qualified vocational training to do this work. Auxiliary tasks will not be sufficient for this purpose. There is an exception for employment in **regulated professions** where a **licence to practise** is required (e.g. doctor, health professionals in nursing). In this case, you can work as an assistant until you obtain your licence to practise.
- **Recognition partnership agreement:** You have signed a written agreement with your future employer stating that you will have the opportunity to complete the recognition procedure as part of your employment relationship. This agreement may also be included in your employment contract.
- **Proof of language proficiency**: You have German language skills at level A2 or above of the **Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)**. Please note that, depending on the profession, a higher level of German may be required for participation in qualification measures in Germany.
- **Suitable employer**: Your employer must be suitable for a recognition partnership. This means that the company already has experience in providing vocational training or **post-qualification** skills development. The competent authority will check the suitability of your employer during the visa process. No action is required on your part, in the role of the **skilled worker**.

Employment conditions and approval by the Federal Employment Agency

Your conditions of employment (salary, working hours, etc.) must correspond to those of domestic employees. As part of the visa process, this will be assessed by the Federal Employment Agency (BA), which must approve your employment.

Do you meet the above requirements? Then find out about the entry and visa process.
To find out how the recognition procedure for foreign qualifications works, see the **"Recognition"** section.

Here you find an **overview** of how to secure your livelihood according to the purpose of stay.

In this video: Full recognition through the recognition partnership

Visa for the recognition partnership: your next steps

The **residence title** for a recognition procedure with accompanying employment is initially issued for up to 12 months. It can be extended by one year at a time up to a maximum of three years. This residence title allows you to work up to 20 hours a week in **secondary employment** in addition to the job for which you have a recognition partnership.

Apply for recognition procedure early

You should apply for recognition as soon as you arrive in Germany. Use the **Recognition Finder** to find out which office to contact.

What happens after recognition? Your prospects

- The recognition procedure was successful: You have received **full recognition** of your professional qualification. For your further stay in Germany, you can now apply to the competent **foreigners authority** in Germany for a residence permit for **skilled workers** or an **EU Blue Card**. To do this, you must either remain employed by your current employer or provide evidence of another offer of qualified employment. If you do not have a job offer, you have the option of staying in Germany for up to 18 months to find a suitable job. For this purpose, you need to apply to the competent foreigners authority for a residence permit for jobseekers (**Section 20 (3) No. 4 of the Residence Act** [AufenthG]). While you are looking for a job, you are entitled to take up any form of employment.
- Your qualification received partial recognition in the recognition procedure: **partial recognition** means that you lack the theoretical or practical skills or knowledge required for full recognition. In this case, your residence permit for a recognition partnership will be renewed for up to two years. Renewal requires that you participate in the necessary qualification measures to achieve full equivalence. Examples of qualification measures include a language course or a work placement. As part of the recognition partnership, your employer is required to give you the opportunity to address any identified skills gaps. Information on qualification measures for people with foreign qualifications can be found, for example, on the **Federal Employment Agency (BA)** website, the information portal "**Anerkennung in Deutschland**" and the Network "**IQ – Integration through Qualification**".

Check options if recognition is unsuccessful

If the maximum duration of your residence permit is about to expire and you have not received a positive result in the recognition procedure, check whether you can still change to another residence title. Enquire well in advance via the "**Working and Living in Germany**" hotline.

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