

## Work as a medical doctor in Germany

### Become part of a highly effective healthcare system

In comparison to other countries, Germany has a highly effective healthcare system. Using the latest methods and modern medical instruments allows for a high level of care. A dense network of hospital doctors ensure that patients swiftly receive the medical services necessary for them. The ongoing healthcare sector continues to reveal new opportunities for medical care. Thus, data in electronic form is available and access to digital healthcare applications and telemedicine can be established. This is the innovative power of the German healthcare sector and its dynamic economic sector. With over 5.8 million employees, the public health service is also a crucial resource for employment; the number of employees has been increasing for years. As of right now, over 536,000 doctors make sure that patients are well cared for.

### Your career as a doctor in Germany

A new generation of medical personnel is urgently required in Germany. The demand will continue to grow in the years to come – especially since many physicians in hospitals will be retiring. When it comes to general practitioners as well as family doctors are in demand. Many doctors can no longer find a suitable location for their practice, namely in eastern Germany and in rural areas.

At the same time, the number of international doctors working in Germany has more than doubled in the last decade. In 2020 alone, 8,826 foreign doctors applied to have their foreign qualification recognised in Germany. This puts doctors in second place among the occupations with the highest number of applications, next to other health care workers and **nursing staff**.

As a doctor in Germany, there are a wide range of career opportunities available to you. For instance, you can work in hospitals, clinics, healthcare centres, geriatric care services or home care services where you work as an employee. You could also work independently as a local doctor in your own medical facility. There are other professional fields such as in medical **research** and teaching, in public health departments, in pharmaceutical companies or in the private sector, e.g. as a **scientist** in medical technology or the pharmaceutical academic fields in Germany, doctors earn the highest salaries.

### Foreign doctors in Germany

56,107

foreign doctors are working in Germany (as of 2020).

### Entry requirements for doctors

If you completed your education and training as a doctor abroad, you will require an official licence in order to work in your profession in Germany. Without this licence, you may not be able to treat patients as a doctor in Germany. The *Approbation* is an official licence to practise medicine with an unrestricted scope. To obtain this licence, your education and training must be recognised as an equivalent to the German training programme for doctors.

The competent authorities for access to the profession are the medical licensing authorities in your home state. Click [here](#) to find a list of the competent authorities issuing licences to practise medicine in Germany. A licence and a professional permit to practise medicine, proof of your physical fitness, personal suitability and knowledge of the German language are usually required. The language requirements for each federal state can be found [here](#).

Did you acquire an additional medical qualification or specialisation abroad? Then you can also apply for the recognition of your specialist title. Please note that this application can only be made if you have already obtained a licence to practise medicine.

More information on the recognition process for doctors can be found on the [Recognition in Germany](#) (available in multiple languages) or on the website of the [German Medical Association](#).

### Do I need a visa?

As a citizen of the European Union, Liechtenstein, Iceland, Norway or Switzerland, you do not need a residence permit to work in Germany. Citizens of other countries do require a residence permit. You can find information on the [work visa for qualified professionals](#) and the [EU Blue Card](#) in the "Visa" section.

**Tip:** Did you apply for recognition of your professional qualification and the certification authority has determined that you require further qualifications for full recognition? Then you can find out whether the [recognition of foreign qualifications](#) is an option for you.

### Infobox

Are you a doctor wishing to work in research and require a visa to work in Germany? If so, there are two options for you: You can apply for either a visa for research or the EU Blue Card for this purpose. Check

requirements for each residence permit to see whether you fulfil them.

### Next steps



- ✓ **Your career prospects:** With our [Quick-Check](#), you can find out about the opportunities available working and living in Germany.
- ✓ **Begin the recognition process:** In our "[Recognition](#)" section, you can find more information on international qualifications.
- ✓ **Apply now:** Find a suitable position in our "[Make it in Germany](#)" [Job listings](#) and use our tips [job application](#) in Germany.

### Good to know:

Doctors from **Mexico** and **Jordan** who already have German language skills at a B2 level can participate in the "*Specialised! – recruitment, qualification and integration of foreign medical doctors*" programme. More information on the programme can be found on the website of the Federal Employment Agency [🔗](#).



(mailto:?subject=Physicians&body=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.make-it-in-germany.com%2Fen%2Fworking-in-germany%2Fprofessions-in-demand%2Fphysicians)

### Information on the web

Federal Ministry of Health

Website of the Federal Ministry of Health

E-Health: Digitization of Health Care

### The German Medical Association

Recognition of training certificates from third countries

### Marburger Bund

FAQ for foreign doctors in Germany