



Working in Germany: the  
official website  
for qualified professionals

## Who needs recognition?

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If you have completed vocational training or obtained an academic degree abroad, you may need to be officially recognised in order to be allowed to work in the corresponding profession in Germany on your profession and your country of origin.

### Regulated professions require official recognition

You may only work in regulated professions in Germany if you have certain qualifications. This applies to professions in the health service, legal advice, teaching in state schools and engineering. There are also certain master craftworkers who run a business.

If you want to work in one of these regulated professions then you will **always** need the certificate of recognition of your foreign qualifications – regardless of your country of origin. In the case of regulated professions the decision on official recognition is generally taken during the procedure required for the granting of a residence permit to practise the profession.

You can find out whether your profession is regulated in the [Recognition Finder](#) on the "Recognition" portal.

### Non-regulated professions may require official recognition

Most professions in Germany are not regulated. These include occupations requiring qualifications from a system of vocational training and many professions requiring a university degree. In order to be allowed to work in Germany as a business economist, computer scientist or baker, for example, you do not need to have your qualifications recognised. The recognition of foreign professional qualifications or the comparability of a foreign university degree is usually a prerequisite for the issuance of a visa to citizens of third countries (i.e. countries outside the EEA and Switzerland).

There is no recognition procedure for higher education qualifications which do not lead to a regulated profession – such as biologist, physicist or linguist – as there is for regulated professions or qualifications from the dual system of vocational training. People from a third country with higher education qualifications required to prove that their foreign academic qualifications are recognised as equivalent in Germany. The recognition of foreign academic qualifications is granted as a residence permit. The anabin database provided by the Central Office for Foreign Education provides more information on this matter. Detailed information can also be found on our website in the "Foreign qualifications" section.

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#### Infobox

*Good to know: Even for EU, EEA and Swiss nationals, recognition can still be helpful. It can be useful when applying for a job, when changing jobs or even when negotiating salaries. The recognition certificate allows employers to recognise the skills and knowledge of international qualified professionals in Germany.*



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subject=Who%20needs%20recognition%3  
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Information on the web  
germany.com%2Fen%2Fworking-  
in-  
germany%2Frecognition%2Fwho-  
needs)**

Federal Office for Migration and Refugees

Hotline on "Recognition of foreign professional qualifications"

#### Recognition of qualifications in Germany

How to have your professional qualifications recognised and where to find your local contact centre

#### European Commission

Search for regulated professions in Germany

#### IHK FOSA (Foreign Skills Approval)

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

#### BQ Portal

Information on foreign professional qualifications and on foreign basic and advanced vocational training

**IQ Network**

Find an advice centre near you to have your international professional qualification recognized

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<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/working-in-germany/recognition/who-needs>

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