

Recognition procedure



In the “recognition procedure”, the relevant authority in Germany checks whether your foreign professional qualification is comparable with a German one and whether there are any differences. The procedure is also called “equivalence assessment”. As a general rule, the authority will examine your documents within three to four months once they have been submitted in full. Precise details as to how the recognition procedure works and the places where you can find detailed information can be found on the portal “[Recognition in Germany](#) 

Result of the recognition procedure

Your foreign professional qualification will be recognised if it is equivalent to the German one. If substantial differences are found in the equivalence assessment, the type of profession will be determining:

In the case of **non-regulated professions**, the professional qualification will be partially recognised if parts of the training are equivalent and others are not. You will be issued with an assesment notice informing you of the main differences from the German reference occupation. You can usually gain qualifications to make up for major differences through refresher training courses. You can then submit a follow-up application to obtain full recognition.

In the case of **regulated professions**, the relevant authority will decide what adaptation programmes you will need to follow to make up for the fundamental differences. Successful completion of the adaptation programme will lead to confirmation of equivalence. Further criteria for admission to the profession will then be assessed. The result of the recognition procedure will be communicated in an official notice (recognition notice).

If you wish to work in a regulated profession in Germany, your professional qualification must be recognised as equivalent. If you want to work in a non-regulated profession, you come from a third country and have a professional qualification (vocational training), you will also need “full” recognition. Only then can you obtain the residence permit required as a qualified professional.

If you come from a non-EU country and substantial differences were found in your equivalence assessment, you can obtain a residence permit for the purpose of obtaining recognition for professional qualifications. This applies regardless of whether the profession is regulated or non-regulated. It allows you to enter Germany in order to complete an adaptation programme or take a refresher training course. You can find further information on this in our section “[Visa for the recognition of professional qualifications](#)”.

The **Quick Check** on this portal will help you to assess your chances of coming to live and work in Germany.

Cost of the recognition procedure

The recognition procedure can cost up to 600 euro, or more in certain cases. Examples of additional costs which may be incurred for a recognition procedure include fees for documents, translations and certifications, travel expenses, and possibly fees for adaptation programmes or refresher training courses. You may be eligible for funding to help with these costs. Further information can be found on the "[Recognition in Germany](#)" portal.

The portal „Recognition in Germany“

Detailed information on the recognition of foreign professional qualifications in Germany can be found on the "Recognition in Germany" portal provided by the German government. It covers various issues, such as the procedure for recognition, the documents required, contacts at advice centres, and information on financial support for the recognition process. The "Recognition Finder" will take you to the authority responsible for your recognition application in just a few clicks. You will also find all the information you need to make an application in the "Recognition Finder". The information is available in German, English, Arabic, French, Greek, Italian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Spanish and Turkish.

The link for the portal is as follows: <https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/en/index.php>

Further information

Initial advice can be obtained in a telephone call to the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge - BAMF). The hotline number is +49 30-1815-1111 and the service is available from Monday to Friday from 8 am to 4 pm. You can obtain initial information in German or English on this hotline on the recognition of foreign vocational qualifications in Germany.

For more detailed advice and assistance in the recognition process, you will be directed to the Service Center for Professional Recognition (ZSBA) at the Federal Employment Agency (BA). You can also contact the ZSBA directly at the following e-mail address: recognition@arbeitsagentur.de. The ZSBA's advisory experts provide support in compiling the necessary documents, correctly completing the necessary application documents as well as in communicating with the competent authorities. Thus, people seeking recognition can plan in a targeted manner, avoid mistakes in the implementation and thus save time. The consultation offer is free of charge and non-binding.

In this video you will get some advices how the procedure of professional recognition in Germany works.

Information on the web

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

Show less

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 courses

IQ Network

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

<https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/jobs/recognition/procedure>

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