

Recognition of foreign qualifications



Your company has to be able to know and judge what qualifications and skills foreign applicants have to offer. The chambers of trades and government agencies will help you in evaluating qualifications such as university or vocational diplomas and comparing them with those of German workers.

Which laws apply to which occupations?

Under the Federal Recognition Act (Anerkennungsgesetz) every foreign skilled worker is legally entitled to have their professional qualification checked for equivalence. This applies if the worker has a foreign qualification and intends to exercise gainful employment in Germany.

If the German reference occupation (comparable occupation) is governed by federal law, the qualification is checked for equivalence under the **federal Recognition Act** [↗](#). This applies both to non-regulated and regulated occupations. The majority of the regulated occupations, such as doctors and pharmacists, are governed by laws specific to them which include the special provisions concerning EU and EEA nationals. You will find further information about the special provisions concerning EU and EEA nationals on the **Recognition in Germany portal** [↗](#).

For occupations subject to the jurisdiction of the Länder (e.g. architects, teachers and educators), corresponding Länder laws apply. You will find further information about federal or Land jurisdiction on the **Recognition in Germany portal** [↗](#).

The project “Unternehmen Berufsanerkennung” offers companies concrete guidance as well as opportunities in communication and networking regarding the recognition of professional qualification. The consultants responsible for crafts businesses are the project office of the ZHW (Zentralstelle für die Weiterbildung im Handwerk e.V.) in Düsseldorf. Companies from industry and trade, please contact the project office of the DIHK Service GmbH in Berlin. Click **here** [↗](#) for contact details.

For academic qualifications which are not a prerequisite for a regulated occupation, such as economists or IT specialists, various laws apply. The Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) is responsible for conducting “certificate assessment for foreign university qualifications”. You can find out more on the **ZAB Website** [↗](#).

For a better assessment of foreign professional qualifications, the BQ-Portal provides various country and professional profiles. **Here** [↗](#) you will find comprehensive information on vocational training systems and training content in different countries worldwide.

Advantages for businesses of recognition

Getting a foreign qualification recognised is not only a prerequisite for exercising **regulated occupations** – the medical professions, for example. In the **BerufeNet-Database** [↗](#) (available only in

German), you can consult a list of all the professions that are regulated in Germany.

For **non-regulated occupations**, which include most of the 330 or so professions in the dual education system, the recognition procedure is not compulsory, but it can aid transparency. Moreover, it can help provide a better assessment of a person's professional capabilities, which can in turn help their needs for additional training or retraining to be accurately assessed.

Important note: *For people from third states, establishing the full equivalence of their foreign qualification (vocational training) is one of the prerequisites for a visa, regardless of whether the foreign recruit is to work in a regulated or non-regulated profession.*

Information on the web

Recognition of qualifications in Germany

Recognition Finder

The EU Recognition Directive

Länder regulations

Financial aid for the recognition procedure

Mehr anzeigen

The Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB)

Recognition of foreign diplomas

European Commission

Database of regulated professions

Unternehmen Berufsanerkennung

Information about the recognition of professional qualifications

IQ Network

See the IQ offers near you

Welcome to Niedersachsen - Bildungswerk der Niedersächsischen Wirtschaft gemeinnützige GmbH

Five years of recognition Law

German Economic Institute

Potentials for professional recognition in the immigration of skilled workers