

# Your recognition procedure as Veterinary surgeon (m/f) in Berlin, Berlin

- The profession of Veterinary surgeon (m/f) is regulated in Germany.
- Recognition of your professional qualification is necessary for you to be able to work in the profession in Germany.

Download: 25.03.2025

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## Quick-Info

### Name of the procedure

This procedure is called: **Issuing of approbation** (in German: **Erteilung der Approbation**).

**Please note:** Approbation is the unrestricted authorisation to practise a medical profession for which an academic qualification is required.

### Requirements for recognition

- Equivalence of your professional qualification
- Personal aptitude
- Medical fitness
- Knowledge of German

### Knowledge of German

- You require knowledge of German at **level B2** of the Common European Reference Framework for languages.
- You are not required to provide a language certificate when applying. You can provide evidence of knowledge of German at a later point in time.

## Duration

- **One month** at the latest following receipt of your application by the competent authority: The competent authority will notify you of receipt of the documents. They will inform you if documents are missing. The procedure begins when the documents are complete.
- After **4 months** at the latest you will receive notice containing the result. In specific cases the competent authority may extend the procedure.
- For professional qualifications from the EU, EEA or Switzerland, the procedure is often shorter. It then lasts for a maximum of **3 months**. For this, you must meet the requirements for automatic recognition.

## Costs

- Approbation: €100 to €430
- There may be additional costs, e.g. for certifications or compensation measures.

It may be possible for costs to be paid via financial support. You can apply for **financial support** if you live in Germany and before you submit your application.

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## Documents for my application

### Required documents

- from the competent authority
- If there is no application form, then apply without a standard application form
- Proof of identity (e.g. passport or personal identification)
- Marriage certificate (if your name has changed through marriage)

- Curriculum vitae
- Evidence of your professional qualification (e.g. certificates, certificate of entitlement)
- Intention to start work: You may have to prove that you want to work in Germany.
- Information about an application for recognition already submitted. In this case state to which authority you applied.

You only need to hand in the following documents if your professional qualification was completed before a certain date (reference date). The competent authority will inform you.

- Certificate of conformity
- If there is no certificate of conformity: Evidence of the content and duration of your training (e.g. list of subjects and grades, study record, Diploma Supplement, Transcript of Records)

In most cases these documents are submitted later. The competent authority will inform you as to when you should submit the documents.

- Evidence of your personal aptitude: Certificate of good conduct from Germany and your country of origin (e.g. criminal record extract, certificate of good standing). The documents must be no more than three months old when the application is submitted.
- Evidence of your medical fitness: doctor's certificate from Germany **and** from your country of origin. The documents must be no more than three months old when the application is submitted.
- Evidence of your knowledge of German: language certificate

#### **Landesamt für Gesundheit und Soziales Berlin**

- **Application form - in German (27.04.2022)**

#### **Translations and certifications**

The competent authority will inform you as to which documents you must produce as originals or submit as copies. Some copies must be officially certified. We

recommend that you do not send originals by post.

You must submit your documents **in German**. Sworn or authorised translators must prepare the translations. Contact the competent authority to find out whether they also accept translations from abroad.

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## **My steps to recognition**

### **I apply to the competent authority. How does this work?**

- You can submit your application online. You will then leave our information page. For your application, you need to upload your documents. A tip: Collect your documents first. Then start the application.
- You can also hand in the application with the documents to the competent authority. You can also send the application to the competent authority by post. Do not send originals!

### **The competent authority is processing my application. What does that mean?**

The competent authority receives the application. After one month at the latest, it will confirm that the application has arrived. Once the competent authority has received all the documents from you, it processes your application.

The competent authority carries out an **equivalence assessment**: It compares your professional qualification with the German professional qualification. As part of this, the competent authority takes into account your professional experience, other certificates and other qualifications.

The competent authority then checks other requirements. This includes, e.g. your personal aptitude, your medical fitness and your knowledge of German.

The procedure takes a maximum of **4 months**. In specific cases the competent authority may extend the procedure. At the end, the competent authority sends you a notice containing the result.

## **Automatic recognition**

For professional qualifications from the EU, EEA or Switzerland, automatic recognition often applies to this profession. This means that there is no individual equivalence assessment. The procedure may therefore be shorter or cost less.

However, you must also apply for automatic recognition to the competent authority. You must meet the following requirements for automatic recognition:

- You received your professional qualification after the so-called reference date. The reference date for each country of training is to be found in the Bundes-Tierärzteordnung (see under "Further Information – Info and links").

**Or**

- You have a certificate of conformity from your country of training.

**The competent authority informs me of the result in a notice.**

**What are the possible outcomes?**

### **Outcome: Recognition**

Your professional qualification and the German professional qualification are equivalent. You receive the approbation. You receive a certificate for this. You also meet all further requirements. Your professional qualification is **recognised**.

Professionally you have **the same rights** as a person with the German professional qualification.

**Outcome: No recognition because the professional qualification is not equivalent.**

There are substantial differences between your professional qualification and the German professional qualification. You are not able to compensate for these differences with your professional experience and other knowledge of the profession. Your professional qualification is therefore **not equivalent** to the German professional qualification. Your professional qualification is not recognised. You do **not** receive **approbation**.

In most cases you are able to complete a compensation measure. This allows you to compensate for the substantial differences.

### **Outcome: No recognition because you do not meet all the requirements.**

Your professional qualification is **equivalent**. However, you do not meet all other requirements for the granting of approbation (licence to practise medicine). You may still need to provide evidence that you e.g. are personally apt or have knowledge of German. The competent authority will inform you of which evidence is missing.

You are able to take legal action against the decision of the competent authority. Details on this procedure can be found in the **legal redress advice** (German: **Rechtsbehelfsbelehrung**) at the end of your notice. We recommend that you speak to a counselling centre first before challenging the decision or taking legal action.

### **I receive no recognition. What can I do?**

#### **Aptitude test as a compensation measure**

If your professional qualification is **not equivalent**, you can take an aptitude test. An aptitude test allows you to compensate for substantial differences. Substantial differences are listed in your notice.

If you successfully complete the compensation measure, you receive a certificate. You submit this certificate to the competent authority. The competent authority checks the certificate and all other requirements (e.g. personal aptitude or medical fitness). If you meet all requirements, your professional qualification is **recognised**. You receive the approbation. Professionally, you then have the **same rights** as a person with the German professional qualification.

Do you come from a third country? You are permitted to enter Germany for a compensation measure. Please seek advice if you have questions, or find out more about entry e.g. via the hotline **Working and Living in Germany**.

## **Counselling**

If you do **not meet all requirements**, you can find out from the competent authority about the options available to you. Were you not able e.g. to provide evidence of your personal aptitude or your knowledge of German? The competent authority can help you with this.

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## **My other options**

### **Working without recognition**

#### **Authorisation to practise a profession**

Did you complete your professional qualification in the third country? If so, you are able to work for a limited period without approbation. For this, you are able to apply for the so-called authorisation to practise a profession. Authorisation to practise a profession permits you to work under the supervision of a person with approbation. You may then only be permitted to carry out activities in a specific area of work. You need to meet the following requirements for authorisation to practise a profession:

- Equivalence of your professional qualification
- Personal aptitude
- Medical fitness
- Knowledge of German

You can apply for authorisation to practise a profession from the competent authority.

You may also be able to use the authorisation to practise a profession to prepare for a compensation measure for recognition.

A professional qualification from the EU, EEA or Switzerland rarely provides you with authorisation to practise a profession.

## **Freedom to provide services**

Do you only wish to offer services in Germany occasionally and for short period? In this case you do not generally require recognition. You must meet these requirements:

- You must be resident of another country of the EU, the EEA or in Switzerland.
- You must provide evidence of your professional qualification.
- You must inform or register your activity in writing with the competent authority.

## Procedure for Ethnic German Resettlers

As an Ethnic German Resettler, you can select between two procedures for vocational recognition:

- You apply for the procedure described here.
- You apply for the procedure under Section 10 of the Federal Expellees Act (German: "§10 Bundesvertriebenengesetz, BVFG").

You can decide this. Your competent authority will advise you.

## Counselling

- Do you have any questions? Do you need help with the application? Seek advice! You will find your counselling centre one step back under **Counselling offers**.
- Do you have questions regarding entry or residence? For more information see **Make-it-in-Germany.com**.

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## Further information

### Info and links

- **Reference dates in the Bundes-Tierärzteordnung** (in German)
- **List of national Assistance Centres for professional qualifications from the EU, EEA or Switzerland**. The national Assistance Centre in your country will provide you with information about the certificate of conformity.



## Legal basis

- **Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications**
- **Bundes-Tierärzteordnung (BTÄO)** (in German)
- **Verordnung zur Approbation von Tierärztinnen und Tierärzten (TAppV)** (in German)

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last update on: 03.01.2024

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[Link to page](#)

**The competent authority**

## Landesamt für Gesundheit und Soziales Berlin

### Landesprüfungsamt für Gesundheitsberufe

Turmstraße 21  
10559 Berlin

[View on Google Maps](#) 

[www.berlin.de/lageso/gesundheits/berufe-im-gesundheitswesen/#headline\\_1\\_3](http://www.berlin.de/lageso/gesundheits/berufe-im-gesundheitswesen/#headline_1_3)

 +49 30 90229 0

 E-Mail

[Online application](#) 

for Qualifications from the EU, the EEA and Switzerland

#### Telephone consultation hours

Tuesdays and thursdays 13.00 - 15.00 (CET)

Counselling and submission of documents is only possible by appointment via e-mail.