

# Your recognition procedure as Doctor of medicine (m/f) in Berlin, Berlin

- The profession of Doctor of medicine (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. You are also able to apply for recognition after you enter the country. See “My other options” for further information.

Download: 06.07.2025

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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 also usually required to complete the **specialist language examination** at **level C1**. There are some exceptions: then you might not need to take the specialist language examination. The **competent authority** will inform you.
- 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.

## Costs

- Approbation: **€100 to €430**
- **Equivalence assessment** from the Central Assessment Agency for Healthcare Professions (GfG): **1773 Euro**
- **Specialist language examination** : **€420**
- 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)
- Evidence of the content and duration of your training (e.g. diploma supplement, transcript of records)
- Evidence of your professional experience in this profession (e.g. employment references)
- You will be required to provide evidence that you are permitted to work in your **country of training**
- **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.

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 or from a consultant doctor at the German Embassy. The document 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 (09.02.2021)**

## Translations and certifications

You must submit your documents **in German**. Therefore, your documents have to be translated. **Sworn or authorised translators must prepare the translations.**

Contact the competent authority to find out whether they also accept translations from abroad.

Some documents must also be **officially certified** .

We recommend that you do not send originals by post.

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## My steps to recognition

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

- You may also apply if you are not yet living in Germany.
- You can send the application **by post** to the competent authority. **Do not send originals.**
- You may be able to send the application **via email**. Ask your competent authority before you do. Later on in the recognition procedure, you may be required to submit original copies or certified copies of the documents.

### 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 for use of the professional title. 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.

Following your **application for recognition**, the competent authority can register you for the specialist language examination. In most cases the respective federal state Chamber of Physicians is responsible for the specialist language examination.

## **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** (in 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?**

**Knowledge test as a compensation measure**

If your professional qualification is **not equivalent**, you can take a **knowledge test**. A knowledge 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

### Recognition partnership

Do you need recognition in order to work in Germany? You can also apply for recognition after entering the country. For this you need a recognition partnership with your future employer in Germany.

The following requirements apply to a recognition partnership:

- You have completed training of at least two years or a degree.
- Your qualification is recognised by the state in the country of training. **The Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB)** will confirm this for you.
- You need German language skills at least at level A2 of the **Common European Reference Framework for languages**.
- You have found an employer.

## Further ways to work in Germany

You may also be able to work in a non-regulated profession in Germany without recognition:

- This is possible, for example, with completed training and professional experience. What's also important is how much you earn, whether you have a contract of employment, whether you speak German and how old you are. We recommend that you complete the Quick-Check here, this will provide all the information: **Make-it-in-Germany.com**.
- This is possible, for example, with a higher education qualification: Find out whether it is comparable to a German higher education qualification. There are two ways of checking this.
- anabin database: You will find universities in the database. Your university must be recognised in the database (H+). AND your higher education qualification must be assessed as equivalent. This then means that your qualification is equivalent to a German higher education qualification. Save as a PDF. This is evidence. Further information and a guide is available at **Make-it-in-Germany.com**.
- Statement of Comparability: What if your university or qualification are not in anabin? In this case you can apply to the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) for an individual statement of comparability. The statement of comparability is a document that confirms the equivalence of your higher education qualification with a German **higher education qualification**.

## 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.

## 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

- **Information by Marburger Bund** (in German)
- **Information on the application**

### Legal basis

- **Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7**

### **September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications**

- **Bundesärzteordnung (BÄO)** (in German)
- **Approbationsordnung für Ärzte (ÄApprO)** (in German)

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last update on: 06.02.2024

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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/gesundheit/berufe-im-gesundheitswesen/#headline\\_1\\_3](http://www.berlin.de/lageso/gesundheit/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.