

Your recognition procedure as Geriatric nurse (m/f) in Lower-Saxony

- The profession of Geriatric nurse (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: 02.07.2025

Quick-Info

Name of the procedure

This procedure is called: **Issuing of authorisation to use the professional title** (in German: **Erteilung der Erlaubnis zum Führen der Berufsbezeichnung**).

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.

Costs

- Recognition procedure: €60 to €200
- Certificate: €53
- There may be additional costs for an examination from the Central Assessment Agency for Healthcare Professions (GfG): 515 Euro
- 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.

The competent authority

Niedersächsisches Landesamt für Soziales, Jugend

Auf der Hude 2
21339 Lüneburg

[View on Google Maps](#)[soziales.niedersachsen.de/startseite/soziales_amp_gesundheit/von-im-ausland-abgeschlossenen-ausbildungen-101995.h](https://soziales.niedersachsen.de/startseite/soziales_amp_gesundheit/von-im-ausland-abgeschlossenen-ausbildungen-101995.htm)[+49 4131 150](tel:+494131150)[E-Mail](#)

Your contact

Team 4SL3

Telephone consultation times

Monday - Thursday:

09:00 - 12:00

Tuesday:

additionally 13:00 - 15:30

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)
- **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 or 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**

Niedersächsisches Landesamt für Soziales, Jugend und Familie - Außenstelle Lüneburg

- **Application form - in German (17.04.2023)**

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.

My steps to recognition

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

- You can **submit** the application with the documents **to the competent authority**.
- You can also 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.
- You are sometimes able to apply **online**. Later on in the recognition procedure, you may be required to submit original copies or certified copies of the documents. Use the federal state internet portal for the online application. You will then leave our information page: **To the internet portal of Lower Saxony**.

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 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.

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 authorisation **to use the professional title**. 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.

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 to use the professional title. 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?

Compensation measures

If your professional qualification is not **equivalent** you can complete a **compensation measure**. A compensation measure allows you to compensate for **substantial differences**. Substantial differences are listed in your **notice**.

There are a range of compensation measures:

- **Adaptation period**
- **Aptitude test**

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 authorisation to use the professional title. 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.

My other options

Working without recognition

Partial access to the profession

Did you complete your professional qualification in an **EU country, the EEA or in Switzerland**? If so, you can work in the profession without recognition. However, you need so-called **partial access to the**

profession. You must apply for partial access to the profession from the **competent authority**.

With partial access to the profession, the following applies:

- You are not permitted to perform all activities in the Profession.
- You are only permitted to use the professional title from your **country of training**.

You need to meet the following requirements for partial access:

- With your professional qualification, you are able to work without restrictions in your country of training.
- Your professional qualification is not equivalent to the German professional qualification. The **substantial differences** are large. In this case a **compensation measure** comprises the full German training.
- Your professional qualification includes at least one so-called **reserved activity** (in German: **vorbehaltene Tätigkeit**) in the German professional qualification. Only specially trained individuals are permitted to carry out reserved activities.
- You are **medically fit**.
- You are **personally apt**.
- You have specific knowledge of German.

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**.

Further information

Legal basis

In German:

- **Pflegeberufegesetz - PflBG**
- **Ausbildungs- und Prüfungsverordnung für die Pflegeberufe (PflAPrV)**

Alternatively by choice until end of 2024:

- Altenpflegegesetz from 31 Dezember 2019
- Ausbildungs- und Prüfungsverordnung für den Beruf der Altenpflegerin und des Altenpflegers from 31 Dezember 2019

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