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# Recognition of foreign professional qualifications - Public Servants - career field of the general administrative service

The exercise of sovereign powers and the fulfilment of state tasks in Germany are predominantly carried out by persons who are employed as civil servants in a special public-law service and loyalty relationship.

The following career branches are possible in the career specialisation of the general administrative service:

1. **Career branch non-technical administrative service:** e.g. activities in the registry office, in personnel processing, in procurement and in the examination and processing of applications to public service providers.
2. **Career branch archives service:** e.g. file holdings and other records are assessed for their historical significance, catalogued and made permanently accessible to academia and the interested public.

In the federal state of Berlin, employment under public servant status is tied by law to the possession of certain professional qualifications. If you have acquired professional qualifications abroad that enable you to work in the public service there, you must have these qualifications recognised in Berlin (as a career qualification) in order to be employed in the state of Berlin in a public servant position corresponding to your previous profession. To do this, the equivalence of your professional qualification with a career qualification in the state of Berlin must be established.

## Procedure:

1. You submit an application for recognition of your professional qualification as a career qualification for the career specialisation of the general administrative service; for one of the above-mentioned career branches of the State of Berlin to the Senate Department responsible for Finance as the competent authority or to the Single Point of Contact. You will receive a confirmation of receipt.
2. The competent authority will determine whether your qualification can be assigned to the qualification for the career specialisation and to a career segment of the career paths of the Land Berlin.
3. If the qualification can be assigned, the competent authority compares the preliminary and training requirements for the career qualification with your qualification certificates. If the authority determines that there is a qualification deficit, it must be checked whether this can be compensated for. In doing so, it must be examined whether the knowledge, skills and competences acquired following the acquisition of the qualification within the scope of your previous professional practice or through lifelong learning, which have been formally recognised as valid for this purpose by a relevant body, can compensate for the deficit in whole or in part.
4. In the case of a qualification deficit that cannot be compensated, recognition is dependent on passing an aptitude test or successfully completing an

adaptation course.

5. The decision on the application shall be made in writing. With the successful completion of the recognition procedure, the qualification for the career branch and the respective career segment is acquired. It is possible that the career qualification is only recognised for certain tasks or offices (partial access).
6. If the requirements for the recognition of the qualification are not met, you will receive a decision against which you have legal remedies according to the Administrative Court Code (objection procedure, if necessary legal action).
7. Recognition for a career branch of the Berlin state service is not associated with the placement of a job; you can apply for advertised positions.

For further information, please contact the relevant office.

## Prerequisites

- **Age**

At the time of employment or takeover, you should not yet have reached the age of 45. This age limit is postponed for periods of actual childcare up to one year for each child under 18 years of age and for periods of actual care of close relatives in need of care according to a medical certificate (parents, parents-in-law, spouses, registered partners, siblings or children) up to one year for each close relative, up to a maximum of three years in total.

- **Nationality**

You have the nationality

- of a member state of the European Union,
- of a state party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area,
- of a third country to which the Federal Republic of Germany and the European Union have granted a corresponding entitlement to recognition of professional qualifications by treaty.

- **Qualification**

You offer the guarantee of standing up at all times for the free democratic basic order within the meaning of the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany. You are not unsuitable for public servant status due to professional misconduct, criminal offences or comparable weighty reasons.

## Documents required

- **Application**

(under "Online processing")

In the application, you must state which public service activity you are seeking.

- **Curriculum vitae**

Curriculum vitae with a tabular presentation of the professional career

- **Proof of nationality**

Proof of nationality of the member state or of a contracting state

- **Proof of qualifications**

Proof of qualifications, e.g. training certificates, diplomas, certificates of graduation

- **Proof of good conduct**

Certificates or documents from the home country or country of qualification stating that no criminal offences, serious professional misconduct or other circumstances calling the suitability into question are known; the certificates or documents must not be older than three months at the time of their presentation.

- **Certificate of authorisation to practise the profession**

Certificate from the home country or country of qualification stating which professional practice the professional qualification entitles to there

- **Declaration on previous professional recognition procedures**

- **Place of residence details**

For statistical purposes, the information on the place of residence is required.

- **If necessary, proof of exercised activities**

Certificates on the nature and duration of activities in the field of the qualification carried out in a member state after the acquisition of the qualification

- **If necessary, proof of competences acquired through lifelong learning**

Certificates issued by a relevant body on knowledge, skills and competences acquired through lifelong learning

- **More documents**

The competent authority may request you to submit further information on the content and duration of the completed training and on other professional qualifications in the form of study regulations, examination regulations, course books or in any other appropriate manner within a reasonable period of time, insofar as this is necessary to establish equivalence.

## Fees

EUR 5.00 to EUR 5,000.00, per effort

## Legal basis

- **Career Act (Laufbahngesetz or LfbG) §§ 23, 23a**

([https://gesetze.berlin.de/perma?j=LbG\\_BE\\_!\\_23](https://gesetze.berlin.de/perma?j=LbG_BE_!_23))

- **Professional Qualification Determination Act Berlin**

(Berufsqualifikationsfeststellungsgesetz Berlin or BQFG Bln) § 17

([https://gesetze.berlin.de/perma?j=BQFG\\_BE\\_!\\_17](https://gesetze.berlin.de/perma?j=BQFG_BE_!_17))

- **Regulation on the recognition of professional qualifications from other countries of the European Union as career qualifications (Verordnung über die Anerkennung von Berufsqualifikationen anderer Länder der Europäischen Union als Laufbahnbefähigung or VO Laufbahnbefähigung EU) §§ 2 et seq.**

(<https://gesetze.berlin.de/perma?d=jlr-BerQAnerkEUVBEV1P2>)

- **Career Ordinance for the General Administrative Service**

(Laufbahnverordnung allgemeiner Verwaltungsdienst or LVO-AVD)

([https://gesetze.berlin.de/perma?j=AVwDLbV\\_BE\\_Inhaltsverzeichnis](https://gesetze.berlin.de/perma?j=AVwDLbV_BE_Inhaltsverzeichnis))

- **Ordinance on the training and examination for the second entry-level post in career group 1 of the general administrative service in the non-technical administrative service career branch (Verordnung über die Ausbildung und Prüfung für das zweite Einstiegsamt der Laufbahngruppe 1 der Laufbahnfachrichtung allgemeiner**

## **Verwaltungsdienst im Laufbahnzweig nichttechnischer Verwaltungsdienst or APOallgVerwD, LfbGr. 1)**

([https://gesetze.berlin.de/perma?j=AVwADLbGr1E2APO\\_BE\\_Inhaltsverzeichnis](https://gesetze.berlin.de/perma?j=AVwADLbGr1E2APO_BE_Inhaltsverzeichnis))

- **Ordinance on training for promotion and career change to the higher non-technical service in general administration (Verordnung über die Ausbildung für den Aufstieg und den Laufbahnwechsel in den gehobenen nichttechnischen Dienst der allgemeinen Verwaltung or AOgD AL)**  
([https://gesetze.berlin.de/perma?j=VwgntDLbAufstAV\\_BE](https://gesetze.berlin.de/perma?j=VwgntDLbAufstAV_BE))
- **Ordinance on Training and Examination for the Career of the Higher General Administrative Service (Verordnung über die Ausbildung und Prüfung für die Laufbahn des höheren allgemeinen Verwaltungsdienstes or APOhD)**  
([https://gesetze.berlin.de/perma?j=VwhdLbAPrV\\_BE](https://gesetze.berlin.de/perma?j=VwhdLbAPrV_BE))
- **Act on Fees and Contributions (Gesetz über Gebühren und Beiträge or GebBtrG BE) § 8**  
([https://gesetze.berlin.de/perma?j=GebBtrG\\_BE\\_!\\_8](https://gesetze.berlin.de/perma?j=GebBtrG_BE_!_8))

## **Average time to process request**

The competent authority shall acknowledge receipt of the documents within one month and inform you of any missing documents. The one-month period begins at the time the application is received by the competent authority or the single point of contact. The decision on the application will be communicated in writing within four months of the submission of the complete documentation.

## **Average time to process request**

<https://www.berlin.de/ea/en/application/login-service-account-berlin/>