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Apply for an approbation to practise as a doctor (EU/EEA/Switzerland)

Doctors examine patients, make findings, diagnose diseases, determine therapeutic measures and carry out medical treatments and interventions.

In order to be able to work as a doctor in Germany without restriction, you need the licence to practise medicine (Approbation). Approbation is the state authorisation to practice the profession. Approbation is necessary because the profession is regulated in Germany. This means that you are not allowed to work independently as a doctor without an Approbation.

Even with a professional qualification from a country of the European Union (EU), the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland, you can obtain Approbation in Germany. To obtain the licence to practise medicine, you must have your foreign professional qualification recognised.

In the recognition procedure, the competent body compares your professional qualification from abroad with the German professional qualification and checks the equivalence. The equivalence of the professional qualification is an important prerequisite for the granting of the licence to practise medicine.

A professional qualification from the EU, the EEA or Switzerland is usually automatically recognised when you apply for a licence to practise medicine. However, there may be deviations from this rule. This depends on the state in which you completed your training and at what time. If you started your professional training after the EU/EEA accession of your country of training, your professional qualification is automatically recognised.

If your professional qualification does not come from the EU, the EEA or Switzerland, other regulations apply.

In addition to the equivalence of the professional qualification, you must meet other requirements for the granting of the permit. Further requirements are, for example, sufficient German language skills and health suitability.

You can also submit the application for the procedure from abroad.

Procedure

1. Application

You submit an application for a licence to practise medicine to the competent authority. The competent body then checks whether your training corresponds to the German training and whether all other requirements are met.

2. Automatic recognition

As a rule, the procedure of automatic recognition applies if you began your professional training after the EU/EEA accession of your country of training. This means: If you also meet all other requirements, your professional qualification will be recognised without an individual equivalence test.

3. Certificate of conformity

Vocational training which you started before the EU/EEA accession of your training state (or which does not correspond to the legal designations) can also be automatically recognised. To do so, you must submit a certificate from the competent authority in your country of training stating that your professional qualification meets the minimum standards of the EU ("certificate of conformity"). If your professional qualification does not meet the minimum standards, you have to prove your professional practice. You must have worked as a doctor in your country of origin for an uninterrupted period of 3 years in the 5 years preceding your application. This must be confirmed by the competent authority in your country of origin.

4. Equivalence check

If you cannot present a certificate of conformity or do not have enough professional experience, your training must be checked individually. In doing so, the competent body compares your professional qualification from abroad with the German professional qualification. The competent body checks whether your professional qualification is equivalent. The professional qualification is equivalent if there are no significant differences between your foreign professional qualification and the German professional qualification.

5. Possible results of the examination

If your professional qualification is equivalent, your foreign professional qualification will be recognised. The authority can confirm the result to you in writing. You still have to fulfil the other requirements and prove your language skills. Then you will be granted your licence to practise medicine.

- Are there any significant differences between your professional qualification and the German professional qualification? Perhaps you can compensate for the differences through your professional practice, other knowledge or skills (lifelong learning). You must provide evidence of professional practice. Knowledge and skills must be certified by an authority of the state in which you acquired the knowledge or skills.
- However, it may be that the essential differences cannot be compensated by this knowledge. The competent authority will tell you the essential differences and why you cannot compensate for the essential differences through your professional experience.

The decision of the competent body will also state the level of your training and the level required in Germany. You will then not be allowed to work as a doctor in Germany.

6. Aptitude test

If your professional qualification is not equivalent and you cannot make up the difference, you can take an aptitude test. The aptitude test examines the main differences in your professional qualification. The aptitude test is an oral-practical test. If you pass the aptitude test and meet all other requirements, you will be granted a licence to practise medicine.

Prerequisites

- **A medical training completed in the EU/EEA/Switzerland that is**

equivalent to a German training or of an equivalent level of knowledge.

The equivalence of the level of knowledge may have to be proven by an examination

- **Health suitability**
- **Proof of reliability and worthiness for the practice of medicine**
- **Sufficient knowledge of German level B 2**
- **Specialist language test**
- **Proof of responsibility**

Documents required

- **Application for a license to practice medicine for training in the European Union (EU)**

Online möglich oder sie stellen den (Papier-) Antrag schriftlich per Post.

- **Proof of responsibility for the Land of Berlin**

(e.g. confirmation of employment, proof of habitual residence in the state of Berlin / main residence, applications for vacancies in the state of Berlin, invitations to job interviews)

- **Curriculum vitae in tabular form with signature and date**
- **Proof of identity (valid identity card or passport)**

- **Birth certificate**

(in the event of a change of name, e.g. due to marriage, also this document)

- **Certificate of good conduct for presentation to an authority**

(<https://service.berlin.de/dienstleistung/120926/>)

To verify personal reliability, information from the Federal Central Register (certificate of good conduct) is required for submission to an authority (document type O).

The information must not be older than three months.

- **Certificate of Good Conduct/Certificate of Clearance of Offences**

of the police or judicial authorities of the **home country**, if applicable, of the **study country** (if presented, not older than 3 months)

- **Certificate of good repute/certificate of good standing**

of the competent authority of the country in which the profession was practised (if presented, not older than 3 months)

- **Medical certificate from a doctor licensed in Germany**

(not older than 3 months if presented)

- **Proof of completed training (European Union)**

(see checklist for persons with EU training)

- **Certificate B 2 on knowledge of the German language**

(from telc, TestDaF or Goethe-Institut - not older than 3 years)

It is not necessary to submit the language certificates at the time of application.

- **Specialist language test - Level C 1 (Berlin Medical Association)**

It is not necessary to submit proof of language proficiency at the time of application.

- **Doctoral certificate (if available)**

- **Official certification of copies**

If copies are submitted, they must be officially certified. In the case of copies without official certification, the simultaneous submission of the originals is required.

Forms

- **Application for a license to practice medicine for training in the European Union (EU)**
(https://www.berlin.de/lageso/_assets/gesundheitswesen/europaeische-union/1eu_approbation_antrag.pdf)
- **Medical certificate from a doctor licensed in Germany**
(https://www.berlin.de/lageso/_assets/gesundheitswesen/aerztliche-bescheinigung_eu_ds_akad.pdf)
- **Checklist: Proof of completed training (European Union)**
(https://www.berlin.de/lageso/_assets/gesundheitswesen/akademisch/akad_checkliste_app_be_europaeische-union.pdf)
- **Specialist language test - Level C 1 (Berlin Medical Association)**
(<https://antrag.aekb.de/SitePages/Fachsprachpr%C3%BCfung.aspx>)

Fees

EUR 210.00

Legal basis

- **Federal Medical Order (BÄO) § 2 et seqq.**
(https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/b_o/_2.html)
- **Licensing Regulations for Doctors (ÄApprO 2002) § 36 et seqq.**
(https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/_appro_2002/_36.html)
- **Ordinance on the Charging of Fees in the Health Care and Nursing Sector (GesPflGebO)**
(<https://gesetze.berlin.de/bsbe/document/jlr-GesPflGebOBEp1>)

Average time to process request

approx. 3-4 months, if all documents are complete

More information

- **Erläuterung Approbation und Ansprechpartnerinnen Ausbildung in der Europäischen Union (EU)**
(<https://www.berlin.de/lageso/gesundheitswesen/ausbildung-in-der-europaeischen-union-eu/akademische-berufe/artikel.806972.php>)
- **Erläuterung Approbation/Berufserlaubnis und Ansprechpartnerinnen Ausbildung außerhalb der Europäischen Union (Drittstaat)**
(<https://www.berlin.de/lageso/gesundheitswesen/ausbildung-ausserhalb-der-europaeischen-union-drittstaat/akademische-berufe/artikel.807214.php>)
- **Information on the recognition of foreign professional qualifications ("Recognition in Germany")**
(<https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/en/index.php>)
- **Finanzielle Hilfe im Anerkennungsverfahren**
(<https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/en/financial-support.php>)
- **Öffentlich bestellte Übersetzerinnen und Übersetzer in Deutschland**
(<https://www.justiz-dolmetscher.de/Recherche/en/>)

Average time to process request

<https://www.ea.berlin.de/intelliform/forms/eu-dlr-ng/gewerbe/Erteilung%20der%20Approbation/index?AnliegenID=325401>

Notes on responsibility

The license is only issued by the Berlin State Office for Health and Social Affairs.