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

Pharmacists dispense medicines in the pharmacy. They sell medical products and care products. Pharmacists advise customers and members of the medical professions. They manufacture, develop and test medicines.

In order to be able to work as a pharmacist in Germany without any restrictions, you need to have a 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 pharmacist 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 the Approbation in Germany. To obtain the licence to practise, 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, different rules apply.

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

You can also apply for the procedure from abroad.

Procedure

1. Application

You submit an application for licensure as a pharmacist 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 automatic recognition procedure applies if you started your vocational training after the EU/EEA accession of your country of training. This means that if you also meet all other requirements, your professional qualification will be recognised without an individual equivalence test.

3. Certificate of conformity

Vocational training that you started before the EU/EEA accession of your training state (or that does not correspond to the legal designations) can also be recognised automatically. 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 pharmacist 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 as a pharmacist.

- 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 are then not allowed to work as a pharmacist in Germany.

6. Aptitude test

If your professional qualification is not equivalent and you cannot make up the differences, 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 as a pharmacist.

Prerequisites

- **Pharmaceutical training completed in the EU/EEA/Switzerland**

equivalent to German training or equivalent level of knowledge.

The equivalence of the level of knowledge is to be proven by an examination if necessary

- **Health fitness**
- **Proof of reliability and worthiness for the practice of the profession of pharmacist**
- **Sufficient knowledge of German level B 2**
- **Technical language test**
- **Proof of competence**

Documents required

- **Application for the granting of the licence to practise medicine in the case of training in the European Union (EU)**
- **Proof of responsibility for the Land of Berlin**
(e.g. confirmation of employment, proof of habitual residence in the Land of Berlin/
main residence if applicable, applications for vacancies in the Land of Berlin, invitations to interviews).
- **Curriculum vitae in tabular form with signature and date**
- **Proof of identity (valid identity card or passport)**
- **Certificate of birth**
(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 standing/Certificate of no objection**
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 when presented)
- **Evidence of completed training (European Union)**
(see checklist for persons with EU education)
- **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.
- **Technical Language Test - Level C 1 (Berlin Chamber of Pharmacists)**
It is not necessary to submit the language certificates 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 the granting of the licence to practise medicine in the case of training in the European Union (EU)**
(https://www.berlin.de/lageso/_assets/gesundheit/berufe-im-gesundheitswesen/europaeische-union/1eu_approbation_antrag.pdf)
- **Medical certificate from a doctor licensed in Germany**
(https://www.berlin.de/lageso/_assets/gesundheit/berufe-im-gesundheitswesen/aerztliche-bescheinigung_eu_ds_akad.pdf)
- **Checklist: Evidence of completed training (European Union)**
(https://www.berlin.de/lageso/_assets/gesundheit/berufe-im-gesundheitswesen/akademisch/akad_checkliste_app_be_europaeische-union.pdf)
- **Technical Language Test - Level C 1 (Berlin Chamber of Pharmacists)**
(<https://www.akberlin.de/ausbildung/apothekerin-auslaendische-berufsabschluss/fachsprachepruefung.html>)

Fees

EUR 210.00

Legal basis

- **Federal Pharmacists' Code (BAPo) § 2 et seqq.**
(https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/bapo/_2.html)
- **Licensing Regulations for Pharmacists (AAppO) § 20 et seqq.**
(https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/aappo/_20.html)
- **Ordinance on the Charging of Fees in the Health Care and Nursing Sector (GesPflGebO)**
(https://www.berlin.de/lageso/_assets/gesundheit/berufe-im-gesundheitswesen/neue-gebuehrenordnung_11_2021.pdf)

Average time to process request

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

More information

- **Explanation Approbation and contact persons Training in the European Union (EU)**
(<https://www.berlin.de/lageso/gesundheit/berufe-im-gesundheitswesen/ausbildung-in-der-europaeischen-union-eu/akademische-berufe/artikel.806972.php>)
- **Explanation Approbation/professional licence and contact persons Training outside the European Union (third country)**
(<https://www.berlin.de/lageso/gesundheit/berufe-im-gesundheitswesen/ausbildung-ausserhalb-der-europaeischen-union-drittstaat/akademische-berufe/artikel.807214.php>)
- **Information on the recognition of foreign professional qualifications ("Anerkennung in Deutschland")**
(<https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/en/index.php>)
- **Financial assistance in the recognition procedure**
(<https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/en/financial-support.php>)

- **Publicly appointed translators in Germany**
(<https://www.justiz-dolmetscher.de/Recherche/>)

Hinweise zur Zuständigkeit

Approbation is only granted by the Berlin State Office for Health and Social Affairs.