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Masseurs and medical bath attendants apply various physical therapy procedures to their patients and clients.

The profession of masseuse and medical bath attendant is regulated in Germany. This means that you need a state licence to work as a masseuse and medical bath attendant in Germany. With this licence, you can use the professional title of masseuse and medical bath attendant and work in the profession.

If you have a professional qualification from the European Union (EU), the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland, you can also obtain a state licence from the competent authority in Germany. In order to obtain the permit, you must have your foreign professional qualification recognised.

In the recognition procedure, the competent authority 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 a state licence.

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

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

You can also apply for the procedure from abroad.

Procedure

1. Application

You submit an application to the competent authority for authorisation to use the professional title of masseuse and medical bath attendant.

2. Verification of equivalence

The competent authority will then check whether you fulfil all the requirements. An important requirement is the equivalence of your professional qualification. The competent body will compare your professional qualification from abroad with the German professional qualification as a masseuse and medical bath attendant. The professional qualification is equivalent if there are no significant differences between your foreign professional qualification and the German professional qualification.

3. Possible results of the examination

If your professional qualification is equivalent, your foreign professional qualification will be recognised. The competent authority can confirm the result in

writing. You must still fulfil the other requirements. You will then be authorised to use the professional title of masseuse and medical bath attendant.

- Are there any significant differences between your professional qualification and the German professional qualification? You may be able to compensate for the differences through your professional experience, other knowledge or skills (lifelong learning). You must provide evidence of your professional experience. Knowledge and skills must be certified by an authority in the country in which you acquired the knowledge or skills.
- However, it may be that the essential differences cannot be compensated for by this knowledge. In this case, your foreign professional qualification will not be recognised. You will then not be allowed to work as a masseuse and medical bath attendant in Germany.
- However, the competent authority will tell you the main differences and why you cannot compensate for the main differences with your professional experience. In most cases, you can take a compensatory measure. This will allow you to compensate for the main differences.

4. Compensatory measures

There are various compensatory measures:

- Adaptation course: The adaptation course lasts a maximum of three years.
- Aptitude test: In the aptitude test, only those areas in which significant differences have been identified are tested. The aptitude test consists of a practical examination combined with an interview.

You can choose between an adaptation period or an aptitude test.

If you successfully complete the compensatory measure and fulfil all other requirements, you will receive permission to use the professional title of masseuse and medical bath attendant.

Prerequisites

- **Training completed in the EU/EEA/Switzerland in the health profession that is equivalent to German training or an equivalent level of knowledge**
The equivalence of the level of knowledge is to be proven, if necessary, by an examination or an adaptation course.
- **Health suitability**
- **Proof of reliability and worthiness for the practice of the health profession**
- **Sufficient knowledge of German level B 2**
- **Proof of responsibility**

Documents required

- **Application for permission to use the professional title 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 job interviews)

- **Curriculum vitae in tabular form with signature and date**
- **Birth certificate and, if applicable, name change certificates**
- **Proof of identity (valid identity card or passport)**
- **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 from the country of origin** 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)
- **Documents on the training course and training qualification with German translation**
(see checklist for the granting of a licence to use the professional title for medical professions when training in an EU member state)
- **Certificate B 2 on knowledge of the German language**
Certificate from the Goethe Institute, telc (telc certificates from Serbian language schools are **not recognized**), TestDaf or ECL certified language school; not older than 3 years. Note: The submitted language certificates will be checked for authenticity and accuracy. It is not necessary to submit the language certificates at the time of application.
- **Foreign language documents**
Foreign-language documents must be submitted with certified translations by translators who are generally sworn or authorized or publicly appointed in Germany.

Forms

- **Application for permission to use the professional title - Training in the European Union (EU)**
(https://www.berlin.de/lageso/_assets/gesundheitswese/n/nicht-akademisch/3eu_nah_antrag_berufsbezeichnung.pdf)
- **Medical certificate from a doctor licensed in Germany**
(https://www.berlin.de/lageso/_assets/gesundheitswese/n/nicht-akademisch/aerztliche_bescheinigung.pdf)
- **Checklist for the granting of a licence to use the professional title for medical professions when training in an EU Member State**
(https://www.berlin.de/lageso/_assets/gesundheitswese/n/nicht-akademisch/nah_checkliste_eu.pdf)

Fees

EUR 164.00

Legal basis

- **Masseur and Physiotherapist Act (MPhG) § 1 et seqq.**
(<https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/mphg/BJNR108400994.html>)
- **Training and examination regulations for masseurs and medical bath attendants (MB-APrV) § 16 ff**
(https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/mb-aprv/_16.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

- **Explanations on using professional titles and contact persons for training in the European Union (EU) (State Office for Health and Social Affairs)**
(<https://www.berlin.de/lageso/gesundheit/berufe-im-gesundheitswesen/ausbildung-in-der-europaeischen-union-eu/nichtakademische-berufe/>)
- **Explanation of licence to practise medicine and contact persons Training outside the European Union (third country) (State Office for Health and Social Affairs)**
(<https://www.berlin.de/lageso/gesundheit/berufe-im-gesundheitswesen/ausbildung-ausserhalb-der-europaeischen-union-drittstaat/nichtakademische-berufe/>)
- **Information on the recognition of foreign professional qualifications ("Recognition in Germany")**
(<https://www.erkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/en/index.php>)
- **Financial assistance during the recognition process (Anerkennungsportal)**
(<https://www.erkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/en/financial-support.php>)
- **Publicly appointed translators in Germany (Justice Portal)**
(<https://www.justiz-dolmetscher.de/Recherche/en/>)

Average time to process request

<https://www.ea.berlin.de/intelliform/forms/eu-dlr-ng/Berlin/Berufsanerkennung/index?AnliegenID=331430&s=1&g=1&z=1>

Notes on responsibility

Permission to use the professional title is only granted by the Berlin State Office for Health and Social Affairs.