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# Applying for recognition of foreign professional qualifications (EU/EEA/Switzerland) as a nurse

Nursing specialists look after and care for people who are ill or need care. The age of the people does not matter. Nursing specialists determine what care the patients need. They supervise and document the care and carry out doctors' orders.

The profession of nursing specialist is regulated in Germany. This means that in order to work as a midwife in Germany, you need a state permit. This permit allows you to use the professional title of nurse and to work in the profession.

Even with a professional qualification from the European Union (EU), the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland, you can obtain a state permit from the competent authority in Germany. To obtain the permit, 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 state licence.

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.

If your professional qualification does not come 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 for the granting of permission to use the professional title of nursing specialist to the competent body.

### 2. Equivalence check

The competent body will then check whether you meet all the requirements. One important requirement is the equivalence of your professional qualification. The competent body compares your professional qualification from abroad with your German professional qualification as a nursing specialist. 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 body can confirm the result to you in writing. You still have to fulfil the other requirements. You will then be granted permission to use the professional title of nurse.

- 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. In this case, your foreign professional qualification will not be recognised. You are then not allowed to work as a nursing professional in Germany.
- However, the competent body will tell you the essential differences and why you cannot compensate for the essential differences through your professional practice. In most cases, you can take a compensatory measure. This will enable you to compensate for the substantial differences.

#### 4. compensatory measures

There are different compensatory measures:

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

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

If you successfully complete the compensatory measure and meet all other requirements, you will receive permission to use the professional title of nursing specialist.

## 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)
- **Proof of completed training**  
Evidence of formal qualifications in accordance with Directive 2005/36/EC entitling the holder to practise the profession without restriction in the country of training or, if applicable, in the home country.  
(see checklist for the granting of a licence to use the professional title for medical professions in the case of training in an EU Member State).
- **Additional certificate of conformity if the training certificate** was issued **after** the date relevant for recognition and only provisional and not yet final evidence of formal qualifications is available or the professional title deviates from Directive 2005/36/EC (confirmation of compliance with the minimum requirements and equivalence with the evidence specified in the Directive)  
was issued **before** the date relevant for recognition and confirms fulfillment of the minimum requirements or confirms three years of uninterrupted, actual and lawful professional activity in the last five years before the certificate was issued
- **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/gesundheit/berufe-im-gesundheitswesen/nicht-akademisch/3eu\\_nah\\_antrag\\_berufsbezeichnung.pdf](https://www.berlin.de/lageso/_assets/gesundheit/berufe-im-gesundheitswesen/nicht-akademisch/3eu_nah_antrag_berufsbezeichnung.pdf))
- **Medical certificate from a doctor licensed in Germany**  
([https://www.berlin.de/lageso/\\_assets/gesundheit/berufe-im-gesundheitswesen/nicht-akademisch/aerztliche\\_bescheinigung.pdf](https://www.berlin.de/lageso/_assets/gesundheit/berufe-im-gesundheitswesen/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/gesundheitswesen/berufe-im-gesundheitswesen/nicht-akademisch/nah\\_checkliste\\_eu.pdf](https://www.berlin.de/lageso/_assets/gesundheitswesen/berufe-im-gesundheitswesen/nicht-akademisch/nah_checkliste_eu.pdf))

## Fees

- EUR 115.00: for automatic recognition
- EUR 164.00: without automatic recognition

## Legal basis

- **Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications**  
(<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2005:255:0022:0142:DE:PDF>)
- **Nursing Professions Act (PflBG) §§ 1, 40 et seqq.**  
(<https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/pflbg/>)
- **Nursing Professions Training and Examination Ordinance (PflAPrV) § 43 ff**  
(<https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/pflaprv/BJNR157200018.html#BJNR157200018BJNG001100000>)
- **Nursing Studies Strengthening Act (PflStudStG) § 64a (1)**  
(<https://www.recht.bund.de/bgbl/1/2023/359/VO.html>)
- **Ordinance on the Charging of Fees in the Health Care and Nursing Sector (GesPflGebO)**  
([https://www.berlin.de/lageso/\\_assets/gesundheitswesen/berufe-im-gesundheitswesen/neue-gebuehrenordnung\\_11\\_2021.pdf](https://www.berlin.de/lageso/_assets/gesundheitswesen/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/gesundheitswesen/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/gesundheitswesen/berufe-im-gesundheitswesen/ausbildung-ausserhalb-der-europaeischen-union-drittstaat/nichtakademische-berufe/>)
- **Information on the recognition of foreign professional qualifications ("Recognition in Germany")**  
(<https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/en/index.php>)
- **Financial assistance in the recognition procedure ("Recognition in**

**Germany")**

(<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=331590&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.