

Pharmacist:in with training from EU/EEA/ Switzerland, recognize professional qualification

You would like to work as a pharmacist in Germany? Then you need a state license, the Approbation. You can also obtain an Approbation with a foreign professional qualification. To do so, you must have your professional qualification recognized.

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Basic information

The profession of pharmacist is regulated in Germany. This means that in order to work as a pharmacist in Germany without any restrictions, you need a license to practice.

Approbation is the state license for the profession. This means that you are not allowed to work independently as a pharmacist without a license.

You can also obtain a license to practice in Germany with a professional qualification from a country in the European Union (EU), the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland.

In order to obtain a license to practice, you must have your foreign professional qualification recognized.

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 license to practice.

A professional qualification from the EU, the EEA or Switzerland is usually automatically recognized when you apply for a licence to practise. However, there may also be deviations from this rule. This depends on the country in which you completed your training and when. If you began your professional training after your country of training joined the EU/EEA, your professional qualification will be recognized automatically.

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

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

In principle, you can also apply for the procedure from abroad.

Requirements

- You have a professional qualification as a pharmacist from the EU, the EEA or Switzerland.
- You want to work as a pharmacist in Germany.
- You can provide proof of competence in the federal state of Bremen.
- Personal suitability: You are reliable to work as a pharmacist and have no criminal record.
- Health suitability: You are mentally and physically fit to work as a pharmacist.
- You have German language skills at the required level. This is usually general language skills at level B2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and medical language skills at level C1.

What documents do I need?

- The responsible office will tell you which documents you need to submit. Important documents are generally

- Proof of identity (identity card or passport)
- Marriage certificate (if your name has changed due to marriage)
- Curriculum vitae
- Proof of training
- Proof of the content of your training:
 - List of subjects studied and hours of training you have completed
 - Proof of your relevant professional experience as a pharmacist (e.g. job references)
- Information on whether you have already submitted an application for a license to practice in Germany
- Do you not yet live or work in Germany? Then you may need to provide proof: You want to work in the profession in Germany. Proof includes, for example, applications for a job, invitations to interviews, personal statement
- Proof of your personal suitability: criminal record or certificate of good conduct from your country of origin. The proof must not be older than 3 months at the time of application.
- Certificate of conformity
- You only need to submit the following document if your professional qualification was completed before a certain date (cut-off date). The responsible office will inform you:
 - Certificate in accordance with Section 4 (1b) of the Federal Pharmacists' Code that the applicant has practiced pharmacy continuously for at least 3 years during the last 5 years before the certificate is issued.

Procedure

Application

You submit an application for a license to practice as a pharmacist to the competent authority. The application must be submitted electronically. The original documents must be presented at a personal appointment. The competent authority will then check whether your training corresponds to the German training and whether all other requirements have been met.

Automatic recognition

As a rule, the automatic recognition procedure applies if you began your vocational training after your country of training joined the EU/EEA. This means that if you also meet all other requirements, your professional qualification will be recognized without an individual equivalence assessment.

Certificate of conformity

Vocational training that you began before the EU/EEA accession of your country of training (or that does not correspond to the legal designations) can also be recognized 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 EU standards ("certificate of conformity"). If your professional qualification does not meet the

minimum standards, you must provide proof of your professional experience. You must have worked as a qualified pharmacist in your country of origin for an uninterrupted period of 3 years in the 5 years prior to submitting your application. This must be confirmed by the competent authority in your country of origin.

Examination of equivalence

If you are unable to present a certificate of conformity or do not have sufficient professional experience, your training must be checked individually. The competent authority will compare your professional qualification from abroad with the German professional qualification. The competent body will check 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.

Possible results of the examination

If your professional qualification is equivalent, your foreign professional qualification will be recognized. The authority can confirm the result in writing. You must still meet the other requirements and provide proof of your language skills. You will then be granted a license to practice as a pharmacist.

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 is possible that the essential differences cannot be compensated for by this knowledge. The competent authority will tell you the main differences and why you cannot compensate for the main differences with your professional experience.

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

Aptitude test

If your professional qualification is not equivalent and you cannot compensate for the differences, you can take an aptitude test. The aptitude test examines the main differences in your professional qualifications. The aptitude test is an oral examination.

If you pass the aptitude test and meet all other requirements, you will be licensed as a pharmacist.

Legal bases

- [§§ 2 ff. Bundes-Apothekerordnung](#)
- [§§ 20 ff. Approbationsordnung für Apotheker](#)

More information

Freedom to provide services

Do you only want to offer services in Germany occasionally and for a short time? Then you usually do not need a state permit. You must fulfill these requirements:

- You must be established in another EU or EEA member state or in Switzerland.
- You must provide proof of your professional qualification.
- You must notify the competent authority of your activity in writing.

The competent authority will inform you.

European professional card

You can apply for a European Professional Card (EPC). You can submit the application online on the European Commission's website. The European Professional Card is an electronic procedure for the recognition of professional qualifications. It is only valid for EU countries and for certain professions.

Notification of equivalence

In the licensing procedure, the equivalence of your training is checked (recognition procedure). You can apply for a separate notification of the result of the examination.

Procedure for ethnic German repatriates

As a late repatriate, you can go through the recognition procedure either in accordance with the laws mentioned here or in accordance with the Federal Expellee Act. You can decide for yourself. The responsible office will advise you which procedure is right for you.

Legal remedy:

You can take legal action against the decision of the responsible office within a certain period of time (for example, by lodging an objection). The decision will then be reviewed. Details can be found in the information on legal remedies at the end of your decision. We

recommend that you first speak to the responsible office before taking legal action against the decision.

What deadlines must be paid attention to?

Sometimes documents are still missing in the procedure. The responsible office will then inform you by when you must submit the documents. The procedure may be extended as a result.

How long does it take to process

Depending on the individual case.

What are the costs?

The responsible office will inform you of the costs. The costs generally depend on the time and effort required for processing.

Additional costs may be incurred (e.g. for translations or notarizations). These costs vary from case to case.