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# Apply for a license to practice as a psychotherapist with a professional qualification from the EU/EEA/Switzerland

Heruntergeladen am 13.06.2025

<https://fimportal.de/xzufi-services/207216702/L100039>

Modul	Sachverhalt
Leistungsschlüssel	99150089001000, 99150089001000
Leistungsbezeichnung I	Apply for a license to practice as a psychotherapist with a professional qualification from the EU/EEA/Switzerland
Leistungsbezeichnung II	Apply for a license to practice as a psychotherapist with a professional qualification from the EU/EEA/Switzerland
Typisierung	3 - Bundesaufsichtsverwaltung: Regelung
Quellredaktion	Rheinland-Pfalz
Freigabestatus Katalog	fachlich freigegeben (gold)
Freigabestatus Bibliothek	fachlich freigegeben (gold)
Begriffe im Kontext	
Leistungstyp	Leistungsobjekt mit Verrichtung

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Leistungsgruppierung	Anerkennung Ausländischer Berufsqualifikationen (150)
Verrichtungskennung	Erteilung (001)
SDG-Informationsbereich	Anerkennung von Qualifikationen zum Zwecke der Beschäftigung in einem anderen Mitgliedstaat
Lagen Portalverbund	Anerkennung ausländischer Berufsqualifikationen (1040400)
Einheitlicher Ansprechpartner	Ja
Fachlich freigegeben am	06.11.2023
Fachlich freigegeben durch	Ministry of Science and Health Rhineland-Palatinate
Handlungsgrundlage	<a href="https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/psychthg_2020/_1.html">https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/psychthg_2020/_1.html</a> <a href="https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/psychthappro/_61.html">https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/psychthappro/_61.html</a> <a href="https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/psychthg_2020/_1.html">https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/psychthg_2020/_1.html</a> <a href="https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/psychthappro/_61.html">https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/psychthappro/_61.html</a>
Teaser	<p>Would you like to work as a psychotherapist in Germany? Then you need a license to practice. You can also obtain a license to practice if you have a foreign professional qualification. To do so, you must have your professional qualification recognized.</p>
Volltext	<p>The profession of psychotherapist is regulated in Germany. This means that in order to work as a psychotherapist in Germany without any restrictions, you need a license to practice. Approbation is the state license to practice the profession. This means that you are not allowed to work independently as a psychotherapist without a license to practice. 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.</p> <p>In order to obtain a license to practice, you must have</p>

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your foreign professional qualification recognized. In the recognition procedure, the competent authority compares your professional qualification with the German professional qualification and checks the equivalence. The equivalence of the professional qualification is an important prerequisite for obtaining a license to practice.

In addition to the equivalence of the professional qualification, you must also meet other requirements for the license 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.

## Erforderliche Unterlagen

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 your professional qualifications (e.g. certificates, professional certificate)
- Proof of the content and duration of your education (e.g. diploma supplement, transcript of records)
- Proof of your relevant professional experience as a psychotherapist (e.g. references)
- Information as to whether you have already applied 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 job interviews, personal statement

You usually submit these documents later. The

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responsible office will inform you when you should submit the documents:

- Proof of your personal suitability: criminal record extract or certificate of good conduct from your country of origin. The certificate must not be older than 3 months at the time of application.
- Proof of your health suitability: Medical certificate. The certificate must not be older than 3 months at the time of application.
- Proof of your German language skills: Language certificate.

For the license to practice medicine, you need general German language skills at level B2. You can also submit the required language certificate during the licensing procedure. During the licensing procedure, you must also take a specialist language test at level C2.

The responsible office will tell you which documents you need to submit as a simple copy, a certified copy or the original.

If your documents are not in German, you must submit German translations of your documents. The translations must be made by translators who are publicly appointed or authorized.

Additional note:

The required German language skills are deemed to be proven for applicants for whom the licensing authority determines without doubt that German is spoken and written fluently (e.g. as a native language) or that the completion of psychotherapeutic training (proof of training) was obtained in German.

As a rule, proof of the required German language skills is deemed to have been provided if the applicant

- has completed at least ten years of general education at a German-speaking school or
- has completed at least three years of vocational

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	training in German.
Voraussetzungen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You have a professional qualification as a psychotherapist from the EU, the EEA or Switzerland.</li> <li>• You want to work as a psychotherapist in Germany.</li> <li>• Personal suitability: You are reliable to work as a psychotherapist and have no criminal record.</li> <li>• Health suitability: You are mentally and physically fit to work as a psychotherapist.</li> <li>• 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 technical language skills at level C2.</li> </ul>
Kosten	<p>The responsible office will inform you of the costs. The costs generally depend on the time and effort required for processing.</p> <p>Additional costs may be incurred (e.g. for translations or certifications). These costs vary from case to case.</p>
Verfahrensablauf	<p><b>**Application**</b></p> <p>You submit an application for a license to practice as a psychotherapist to the competent authority.</p> <p>You can hand in the application with the documents to the relevant office or send it by post. Do not send any originals. Sometimes you can also send the application electronically. The competent body will inform you.</p> <p>The competent authority will then check whether your training corresponds to the German training and whether all other requirements have been met. Approval can only be granted if your training from abroad is equivalent to the German training.</p> <p><b>**Examination of equivalence**</b></p> <p>The competent authority compares your professional qualification from abroad with the German professional qualification. The competent authority will check whether your professional qualification is equivalent. The professional qualification is equivalent</p>

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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 psychotherapist.

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. You will then not be allowed to work as a psychotherapist in Germany.

The competent authority will inform you of the essential differences and why you cannot compensate for the essential differences through your professional practice. The decision of the competent authority will also state the level of your training and the level required in Germany.

### **\*\*Compensatory measures\*\***

You can take a compensatory measure to make up for the substantial differences.

There are various compensatory measures:

- Adaptation course: the adaptation course lasts a

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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 is an oral-practical case test.

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

If you successfully complete the compensation measure and meet all other requirements, you will be licensed as a psychotherapist.

**Bearbeitungsdauer**

4 Monat(e)

The responsible office will confirm that your application and documents have been received after a maximum of one month. The competent office will inform you if any documents are missing. If the documents are complete, the procedure will take a maximum of 4 months.

**Frist**

There is no deadline. Sometimes documents are still missing from the procedure. The responsible office will then inform you by when you have to submit the documents. This may prolong the procedure.

**weiterführende Informationen**

<https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de>  
<https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/de/finanzielle-foerderung.php>  
<https://www.justiz-dolmetscher.de/Recherche/>  
<https://www.europaeischer-referenzrahmen.de/>  
[https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/bvfg/\\_10.html](https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/bvfg/_10.html)  
<https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de>  
<https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/de/finanzielle-foerderung.php>  
<https://www.justiz-dolmetscher.de/Recherche/>  
<https://www.europaeischer-referenzrahmen.de/>  
[https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/bvfg/\\_10.html](https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/bvfg/_10.html)  
<https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/de/beratung.php>  
<https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/de/beratungssuche.php>

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<https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/de/hotline.php>  
<https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/de/zentrale-servicestelle-berufsanerkennung.php>  
<https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/de/beratung.php>  
<https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/de/beratungssuche.php>  
<https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/de/hotline.php>  
<https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/de/zentrale-servicestelle-berufsanerkennung.php>

## Hinweise

**\*\*Partial access to the profession for professional qualifications from the EU, the EEA or Switzerland:\*\***

Your professional qualification is not equivalent and there is only a partial match with the German professional qualification? The activity can be objectively separated from the other activities of a psychotherapist? Then you may be able to work in the profession with partial access to the profession. However, with partial access to the profession, you may **\*\*not carry out all activities\*\*** in the profession. You may then only carry out the activities for which you are qualified through your training. There are certain requirements for a partial professional license:

- You can work in this profession with your professional qualification in your country of training.
- Your professional qualification only partially corresponds to the German professional qualification. The differences to the German professional qualification relate to certain activities that are important for the profession in Germany.
- Your professional qualification must correspond to a specific activity of the professional qualification in Germany.
- Health aptitude
- Personal aptitude
- German language skills: You must have the German language skills required for partial access to the profession.



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You apply for partial access to the profession at the competent authority.

### **\*\*Temporary professional license\*\***

With a temporary professional license, you can work for a limited period of time without a license to practice. With a temporary professional permit, you may work under the supervision of a person with a license to practice. You may then only be allowed to carry out activities in a specific area of work. You must meet the following requirements for the temporary work permit:

- Proof of your professional qualification
- Health suitability
- Personal aptitude
- German language skills: You must provide proof of the German language skills required to exercise the profession within the scope of the professional license.

You can apply for a temporary professional license from the competent authority.

You may not apply for a temporary professional license if you have also applied for a license to practice.

### **\*\*Freedom to provide services\*\***

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

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

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The competent authority will inform you.

### \*\*Notification of equivalence\*\*

The equivalence assessment (recognition procedure) can also take place during the licensing procedure. You can apply for a separate decision on 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 on which procedure is right for you.

## Rechtsbehelf

You can take legal action against the decision of the competent authority within a certain period of time (e.g. lodge 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.

## Kurztext

- Apply for a license to practice as a psychotherapist with a professional qualification from the EU/EEA/Switzerland.
  - To work as a psychotherapist in Germany, you need a state license (Approbation).
  - With a license to practice, you can work as a psychotherapist.
  - You can also obtain a license to practice in Germany with a professional qualification from the European Union (EU), the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland.

## Ansprechpunkt

Please contact the State Office for Social Affairs, Youth and Care.

## Zuständige Stelle

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Formulare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forms: Forms can be obtained from the responsible office.</li> <li>• Online procedure possible: Ask the responsible office whether you can submit the application online.</li> <li>• Personal appearance necessary: no</li> </ul>
Ursprungsportal	<p>Apply for a license to practice as a psychotherapist with a professional qualification from the EU/EEA/Switzerland, Approbation als Psychotherapeutin oder Psychotherapeut mit Berufsqualifikation aus EU/EWR/Schweiz beantragen</p>